

THE LONDON MAGAZINE,
ENLARGED AND IMPROVED,
FOR APRIL, 1785.

THE HISTORY OF THE SECOND SESSION OF THE SIXTEENTH
PARLIAMENT OF GREAT-BRITAIN.

Begun and holden at Westminster, on the 25th of January, 1785.

MR. Pitt begged the attention of the House for a few moments, as he should confine himself entirely to the question before the House; a great deal of extraneous matter had been introduced, equally as irregular as foreign to the purpose, which he however intended carefully to avoid. The question merely was, whether any bill ought to be introduced by the title of the one then proposed; this was a very simple question in itself, and might be very easily decided upon, but gentlemen seemed to be fond of the subject; and therefore it was not surprising they had enlarged upon it. The honourable member, indeed, who had opened the business, appeared on his favourite topic, and from animadverting on it, with his usual ability, had been particularly attended to by the House; but for his part he must confess he had been very much disappointed by the honourable member's not having once touched upon that point, which on a former day he had stated he should so fully enter upon, as a most effectual means of convincing this House the present bill ought not to be brought up, namely, its interference with the navigation act; but he supposed the honourable gentleman had seen his error, and therefore had passed his effectual measure over in silence; he had now found out a new point to object to it upon, which perhaps upon a mature reflection he might be equally as ready to forego, and as nothing very material had been urged

against it by the other side of the House, at least nothing but what had been so clearly controvered by his honourable friend (Mr. Jenkinson) near him, it would not appear any way strange that he should still profess himself a friend to it; convinced, as he was, besides of the great attention that had been paid in drawing of it up, and the necessity there was for such a measure being adopted; he was firmly of opinion it could not be of any injury to the merchants of this country, and might be of great service to those for whom it was intended. The evils that had been asserted it would be productive of, he believed were rather the offspring of the lively fancy which had framed them, than any real inconveniences that even the honourable member himself thought would happen, or were to be apprehended. Some pains had been taken to defend the act and proclamation which had passed for the opening the trade with America, and some reflections had been cast on him and his colleagues for having repeated the proclamation more than once with all its absurdities; this was a measure that certainly was entitled to some share of blame; but then it was to be observed, that neither he or any who acted with him, framed that proclamation, but took it as it was left by their predecessors in office, and that the absurdity was not in the substance, but in the wording; this being the fact, there was not any thing very reprehensible in it, and he would take

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care it should be amended in future. Before he sat down, he begged the House would indulge him in taking notice of one circumstance which had fallen in the course of the debate, although it was not connected with the business before them, but had forcibly been dragged into it, he would not say purposely with any bad intentions, but it was certainly without thought, rashly, and inconsiderately; he should have passed it over with silence, had it not fallen from one, whom every man in that House looked up to whenever he got up to deliver his sentiments, and very justly put confidence in his assertions, when he gave himself time to think. Falling, therefore, from such weight, it was absolutely necessary it should meet with some notice. The noble lord, by his introducing the subject, which his experience, if he had so wished, would have taught him to avoid, perhaps has given the alarm to Ireland; they are jealous, he says himself, and therefore he was willing to rouse their jealousy, or he would not have so forcibly dragged them into a connection with a bill, in which one would have thought the ingenuity of man could not have made them concerned. To be the means of exciting those jealousies, he conceived would ever be avoided by those who wished well to the two countries; and no man, in his opinion, would spread the alarm, that was not inimical to their continuing, as he hoped they ever would do, in mutual love and sisterly affection, in defiance of any insinuation that might be thrown out to endeavour to sever them.

Lord North rose to explain: he denied having forcibly dragged Ireland into the debate; the very title of the bill had Ireland upon the face of it; all ships belonging to his Majesty's European dominions—and surely no man would say Ireland was not part of his Majesty's European dominions; were not the ships fitted out in Ireland to be subject to the restrictions of this bill? if they were, it was the framer of the bill, and not he who had excited the alarm; he found it connected with business before the House; he

felt its consequence, and therefore had given ministers the caution to be careful of the danger; but what was the return they made? why charge him with wishing to excite a rebellion in Ireland; but conscious as he was of his own attachment and love to both sister kingdoms, and convinced that every candid man knew his character better than to let such an invidious insinuation weigh a moment with them, he should treat it with the contempt it merited.

Mr. Eden likewise desired to make a single remark on what had fallen from the Chancellor of the Exchequer. The honourable member had charged him with flying from his word in not combating the present question, as he had said on a former day he would do, with the navigation act; but he begged to remind the House, that on the commencement of what he had troubled them with, that he protested against having a desire of introducing any altercation, and that he should purposely avoid attending to any thing which had passed before; but, however, the Chancellor of the Exchequer must either have a very bad memory, or not have read the navigation act for a considerable time, or he must have observed that he had referred to it several times; nay, had even quoted from it this very day; therefore, it was plain he neither had, nor was likely to change his opinion.

The Attorney-General entered into a very elaborate legal discussion of the meaning and extent of the different acts which have been passed since the navigation act in the reign of King Charles the Second. He attempted to ridicule the act passed for opening the trade with America, as containing the most absurd clauses that ever were penned, particularly that which says that on their entering the English ports with certain commodities, they shall be excused from producing certificates, cockets, &c. and in the very same clause granting his Majesty in council, power by proclamation, to make what alterations he may find necessary. If his Majesty was to be allowed such power, where was the use

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of mentioning certificates, &c. It was absurd to mention them at all; because who were bound to produce these certificates? Why, British built ships cleared out according to law; then of course, if these ships were cleared out, according to law, there was no occasion to pass an act for their admission, and if they were not according to law, they could not possibly have procured a certificate. He then adverted to Lord North's having alluded to Ireland as connected with this business; and though he had a high opinion of his lordship's character, he thought he had been guilty of rashness in giving birth to an alarm of that nature.

Mr. Fox said he should detain the House for a very short time; as his noble friend had so clearly pointed out the absurdity of the bill, there was little left for him to say on the subject; and as the right honourable gentleman on the other side seemed to please himself with a fancied triumph over another right honourable friend of his, who opened the business, he was almost induced to indulge him for once, and let him enjoy it. Indeed it was not the least surprising he should catch thus at the shadow of a triumph, when it was so very seldom he could obtain even the appearance: but, as he used some high-sounding words against his noble friend, he thought a word or two on that head would not be entirely out of time; not because he conceived that it was in the least necessary to defend his noble friend from such imputations, but because he had the very same opinion upon the subject. The title of the bill clearly and indisputably carried Ireland upon the face of it, as plainly as though it were there particularly named; and yet no sooner had the noble lord alluded to what was in legible characters before him, than he was charged with giving an alarm that might excite rebellion: but let the gentleman only see for a moment to whom he gave the alarm, why, to his Majesty's minister; seeing him on the brink of danger, he kindly cautions him to proceed with a wary step, lest he should stumble; but he, instead of receiving the friendly

caution with gratitude, exclaims against his adviser, tells him he wants no assistance, that he is sufficient in himself to overcome all difficulties. On what did the noble lord raise this alarm, which is to be attended with such tremendous consequences? Not on a bill that has passed the House; not on a bill before the House; but on the title of a bill that perhaps is to be brought up: on the title of a bill, that the very man who penned, cannot say has any other meaning than what the noble lord put on it; but it was wrong to mention Ireland, and therefore he must be condemned; but for his part, he conceived his noble friend had acted as a true lover of his country; he no sooner saw what appeared to him as likely to be dangerous, than he gave ministers an immediate alarm, even while they had time to prevent its being of any ill consequence; he always had considered the earliest intimation the most effectual for prevention; he always had given it, and determined ever so to do. The learned member who spoke last, had been at infinite pains to condemn an act that he had brought into that House, which had been passed for a temporary purpose, and which the honourable member and his colleagues, with all its faults, had not failed to make use of: he likewise had ridiculed one of the clauses as absurd; and asked why certificates, &c. were mentioned in it, when the same clause was to give his Majesty full power to make whatever regulations he might find necessary; to which he should reply, that every thing that was thought of at the time, was inserted, that the legislature might know what was its purpose, and that as little should be left to the King as possible. Mr. Fox then observed, that an honourable member having thought proper to allude to a worthy admiral, and as it appeared to him with a view to censure his conduct on the affair at Newfoundland, he could not refrain giving it as his opinion, that even admitting Admiral Campbell had acted wrong in that affair, it was of too slight a nature to deserve any censure. After dwelling some little time on

what had likewise fallen from Mr. Jenkinson in the early part of the debate, he concluded by observing, he should enter more fully into the principle of the bill when it was properly before the House.

Mr. Bearcroft rose in great anger at the idea of this country having fallen so low that any member, however noble, or of however long standing in that House, should object to a bill being brought in, because it had in its title "his Majesty's European dominions." He was replied to by

Sir James Erskine, who stated the term made use of by Lord North, and not as Mr. Bearcroft had misunderstood it. After which,

The Sollicitor-General said a few words in defence of the bill, when the question being put for discharging the order, it was carried in the negative. Mr. Pitt then brought up the bill, and it was read the first time.

Tuesday, February 8.

SEAFOORTH ELECTION.

Upon the question being put for the hearing the petition against the election for Seaforth on the 8th of March, Sir Peter Parker moved for its being put off to the 26th of May, that the honourable member against whom the petition was preferred might have time to enter a proper defence against it, and not be deprived of his right to a seat in that House by the rapidity with which his antagonists seemed to wish to bring it forward, being, as he supposed, ready prepared with their charges, while his honourable friend had to arrange his defence.

Mr. Fox thought there was sufficient time between this and the 8th of March. Seaforth was at no very great distance from London, and whatever evidence was thought necessary to be brought from thence, must be conveyed to town long before the appointed time. He was for having the representation of the people in parliament as complete as possible, and as soon as possible; therefore he should always prefer an early day. That this petition from Seaforth should have a speedy termination, was doubly necessary: for he believed at this very

time one of its late chosen members had vacated his seat for that place, and now actually represented another respectable part of this kingdom: this being the case, the sooner their petition was determined upon, the better. He had introduced one a few days since himself, and that House had allowed him exactly the same time this was to have; a month to a day. Why a fitting member should require an extension of time, he did not know, nor would he ever be a friend to allowing it.

Mr. Marsham likewise was of opinion, the first day named was at a sufficient distant period, and the sooner it was decided upon the better.

The Marquis of Graham said, there was a material difference between the case on which the right honourable gentleman (Mr. Fox) had introduced his petition, and the present; his was for a contested election; whereas the present wished to make the election void, by stating it had been made on an improper day; therefore, as the cases bore no analogy, it was absurd to argue the same principle as to time which ought to be preserved; as the proper evidence necessary for the one, being of an intricate nature, might take three times as long to procure, as that which came under the common and general circumstances.

Sir James Johnstone and Lord Mahon supported Sir Peter Parker's motion, while Mr. Pelham and Mr. Eden declared for an early day; but, previous to the Speaker's putting the question, Sir Peter gave up the point, and the 8th of March was appointed.

NEWFOUNDLAND BILL.

The bill for allowing the importation of bread, flour, and live cattle into Newfoundland from America, was then read a second time, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer moved for its being committed to-morrow, which drew up Mr. Fox, who observed, that although the title of the bill had been given up, yet the principle of it was of too extensive a nature, even with respect to Newfoundland, to pass over without being properly discussed; and as he thought

previous to its entering the committee was the most proper time, he was sorry the honourable gentleman seemed so desirous to press it forward in such haste. It might, perhaps, be found necessary to call persons to the bar, who were more conversant with the possible effects the bill was likely to be of, than any member in that House could be: should this be found the case, and as it might not be in their power to obtain the attendance of those persons by to-morrow; yet still the honourable gentleman be determined to bring it forward, why then he must content himself with taking it up in the next stage, though he confessed he did not conceive it would be quite so proper. He did not wish for a long delay; he would propose Thursday or Friday. This was only postponing it for a single day, and that he apprehended could not be productive of any material consequence.

Mr. Baring and Mr. Watson said a few words upon it, when Mr. Pitt said he certainly should not contend with the right honourable gentleman for a single day, and therefore moved that it should be committed on Thursday, which was agreed to.

WESTMINSTER ELECTION.

The order of the day was then read for the attendance of the high-bailiff of Westminster, who being called to the bar, was ordered to state to the House, in what manner he had proceeded, with respect to the Westminster scrutiny, since he had received the resolutions of that House: to which he replied, that not having expected he should be called upon for a regular detail, he had come totally unprepared for that purpose; but that he was ready to answer any question the right honourable House might think proper to put to him: which mode being acceded to, Mr. Welbore Ellis began.

[To avoid the prolixity of question and answer, we shall select the substance of the high-bailiff's replies to the different interrogatories put by the different members.]

That he had proceeded on the scrutiny as soon as possible, which was on

the 16th of June, and had continued it from day to day, attending punctually himself: it had commenced in St. Anne's parish, where they had scrutinized about 100 votes, and then adjourned to St. Martin's; in this parish about 210 objections had been discussed, Sir Cecil Wray having succeeded against 81, and Mr. Fox 60: that the principal cause of the delay was the long examination of witnesses, and still longer cross examinations, together with the long arguments by the counsel on both sides, on points of law; this protraction, however, he thought unavoidable, because having no power to administer an oath, cross examinations were sometimes found necessary to obtain the truth; the attendance of witnesses was entirely voluntary, nor could he compel any one to give evidence, provided he was not so inclined. The scrutiny having been ordered by that House, he did not think he could make a return, but was bound to continue it, although by making a return he should be relieved from a very troublesome office; nay, even though the House should withdraw their authority for its continuance, and he was perfectly at liberty, he should then require some time to consider how far he could do it in justice to the party who had demanded the scrutiny, as he was not able to determine from the experience he had had in the two parishes, because the suggestions of bad votes had not depended on those, but were stated to exist in St. Margaret's and St. John's; and if the petitioners did not carry a great majority upon the balance when they had gone through those parishes, he was certain they would think it prudent to decline prosecuting it any farther.—He admitted, that one ground for his granting the scrutiny was the numbers on the poll so far exceeding any election before; and yet he confessed that in the parish of St. Anne's, which was the only parish yet entirely decided upon, his opinion did not appear founded in fact. At the election of Trentham and Vandeput there were only 710 polled in that parish; the numbers on the late election were 906, and

and yet he did not know of any increase of houses in that parish to account for the additional votes. The state of the poll at St. Anne's was 364 for Sir Cecil Wray, and 541 for Mr. Fox; Sir Cecil objected to 71, and succeeded in 25; Mr. Fox objected to only 32, and 26 of them were struck off the poll.—Judging from the time which had been already taken up in discussing the votes objected to in the first two parishes; and supposing the present mode was to be continued, he was certain it could not be ended in less than two years more; two papers had been put into his hands at St. Martin's vestry, from the friends of Sir Cecil Wray, containing some propositions for accelerating the business; but he could not speak to their purport, having paid very little attention to them, leaving them to the discussion of the counsel; they had been rejected, on Mr. Fox's counsel convincing him the propositions were not calculated to answer the proposed purpose, and he did not think himself authorised to make any regulations, unless both parties were agreed. He did not recollect, whether Mr. Hargrave gave his opinion against them or not, or whether Mr. Fox's counsel had proposed any others when those were rejected. He declared he was by no means possessed of sufficient authority to prevent the delays which had hitherto taken place; justice might be done in the court where he presided, but witnesses had often behaved very rudely to him, in his judicial capacity, and had treated him, for his want of power, with contempt, as he considered himself unable to keep proper decorum; he indeed thought himself justifiable in ordering the attendance of the constables even during the poll, but that authority expired with the date for his return of the precept. He denied knowing any evidences had been convicted of asserting a falsity, though several had been reprobated by Mr. Fox's counsel for prevarication, and their testimony abandoned by Sir Cecil Wray's for their behaviour; Koller, among others; but then no decision had been given in favour of Kol-

ler's testimony alone—believed justice might now be done without the assistance of counsel, but did not think that would accelerate the scrutiny, as the electors themselves might retard the business, by asking questions of the witnesses. He granted one instance had occurred where a voter had been struck off the poll by there being some mistake in the entry of the name of the street, who had afterwards applied to have his franchise established; nor could he deny but it was possible there might be others in the same predicament, as the legality of their votes were decided in his absence, nor did he ever summons them when they were attacked. He had heard the friends of both parties exclaim against the largeness of the expences; he believed they might be very great, but he knew not to what amount; his assessor had ten guineas per day, and there were nine clerks who had half a guinea per day, all of which were paid by the agents of Lord Hood and Sir Cecil Wray; and he could not speak to the amount of their other expences; he positively denied his receiving any emolument for his own trouble, or being in expectation of receiving any reward for it, either for himself or any part of his family. Was he entirely at liberty to make the return, upon his present ideas, he should be very doubtful; but, as it was, he conceived himself acting under the authority of that honourable House, and in obedience to their orders could not make it. Previous to the meeting of parliament, he had granted the scrutiny by the authority which he conceived to be vested by law in every returning officer. He stated, Mr. Hargrave had been his first assessor; and the only reason he knew for that gentleman's having quitted that station, was, that it interfered materially with his other avocations. He never heard him assign any other reason; not even on the last day after he had agreed to continue, till all the votes had been decided upon in St. Martin's parish; he knew that Sir Cecil's counsel had expressed great satisfaction at his quitting his situation. He thought there might be some mode adopted

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adopted that would bring the scrutiny to a speedy conclusion, and he was induced to maintain this idea from the contest between Trentham and Vandeput, after presidents had been established and matters arranged, being finally terminated in less than five months; but then it could only be done with the mutual consent and desire of both parties.

The above is nearly the substance that was given by Mr. Corbett in reply to the interrogatories which were put to him by Mr. Ellis, Lord North, Mr. Pelham, Sir W. Dolben, Lord Surrey, Mr. Sheridan, Col. Fitzpatrick, Mr. Fox, Lords Mahon and Mulgrave, Sir L. Kenyon, &c. In the course of the examination, several altercations took place on the propriety of questions that were put, which occasioned the high-bailiff to be often ordered away from the bar, and then recalled. At the conclusion, Mr. Pelham rose, and conceived it would be only treating Mr. Corbett with that degree of lenity, which many had experienced from that House, to suffer the evidence which he had given to be read over to him, as, though he did not mean to charge Mr. Corbett with having wilfully given a contradictory testimony, yet he believed there would be found many parts, on its being read over, that would not perfectly agree with each other; he thought it, therefore, would be an act of justice to ask him if he chose to have it read over, that he might have an opportunity of correcting any unintentional errors that it might contain.

Lord Mulgrave thought the whole intent and purpose of examination at the bar of that House would be done away, if it was to become a practice for every person to have an opportunity to erase that part of their evidence which was the only part that tended to the point for which they had been called to the bar and examined. He would not contend that it had not been permitted; but he did not recollect a single instance ever having occurred since he had been in parliament. He was very far from objecting to Mr. Corbett's being so far indulged, be-

cause his evidence had been the clearest and most unembarrassed that he had ever heard given, and he was therefore sure no ill consequence could be apprehended from it, but he hoped it would never become a general practice.

A desultory conversation now took place between Mr. Welbore Ellis, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Eden, and others, on the motion of Mr. Pelham, "That the contradictory evidence of the high-bailiff might be once more read over to him." The Speaker at length settled the dispute, by ordering the high-bailiff to be called in again, and asked, "Whether he had any more information to offer to the House?" The bailiff answering in the negative, he was told to withdraw, and Francis Hargrave, Esq. ordered to the bar; who stated the period of time he had served as assessor in the scrutiny, viz. from May 28, 1784, to January 12, 1785. The tenour of his whole evidence, which was of extreme length, went most fully to prove the incompetency of the court of scrutiny to decide upon the merits of the election, from the total want of power in the high-bailiff, or his assessor; the shameful and indecent prevarication of witnesses, the impossibility of compelling them to give testimony, or to produce deeds or writings, necessary to elucidate any point under the discussion of that impotent court.

Sir Lloyd Kenyon here observed, that though the high-bailiff did not know his own power, he would venture to assert, that offenders might be punished who misbehaved in any court in this kingdom.

Mr. Fox, Lord North, and Mr. Burke treated this extraordinary doctrine with great freedom and sarcasm; and on Mr. Hargrave's being recalled to the bar, respectively drew from that learned gentleman an unequivocal declaration, "That he knew no law of the land, that empowered the high-bailiff to punish any description of offenders whatever!"

Mr. Murphy was next called in, who said he was the succeeding assessor to Mr. Hargrave; and confirmed all the points of incompetency in the high

high bailiff's court of jurisdiction, as stated by his predecessor. He said no unnecessary procrastination took place; and according to the present system, it might be *two years*, nay, he did not know how long, before the scrutiny was brought to a decision. Upon an average, he could only decide upon two votes a day, each vote being as a new cause at *sic propositus* before Lord Mansfield. If he were to propose a plan of alteration, he should recommend the mode before a committee of the House of Commons as a model.—Here a variety of questions were put to him respecting the expediency of counsels' speeches; to which Mr. Murphy not answering very explicitly, Mr. Fox insisted upon the last, that the witness should give a plain answer to a plain question.

Lord Mulgrave rose in great warmth to speak to order; ironically charging the right honourable gentleman with an indecent attack on the respectable and learned witness at the bar.

Mr. Marsham rose, and requested that the business might be discussed with temper and coolness. That if any warmth could be admitted, that of the right honourable gentleman, whose interests were so nearly concerned, might surely plead for extenuation. Great stress had been laid on the indequate treatment of Mr. Murphy; but he recollects Mr. Hargrave, a gentleman at least equally respectable, had complained of a laugh in the House, which he thought pointed at him; and yet gentlemen on the other side had not taken the alarm, and thought it incumbent upon them to rise, in support of his wounded feelings!

Mr. Fox rose after Mr. Marsham, and said in substance nearly as follows:—"No man is more ready to apologize for any impropriety than I am. To my honourable friend who spoke last, I am obliged very much for the manner in which he has placed me, relative to this business; but I beg leave to declare, that I feel utterly unconscious of having done any thing necessary to apologize for. I asserted; and now re-assert, that I thought I saw an unwillingness in Mr. Murphy to give a plain answer

to a plain question. More I said not than this; and one tittle less than this I shall never say upon the subject. I meant no reflection upon Mr. Murphy. A thousand reasons might operate to prevent a plain answer, without any criminality in the person refusing; and while I confess that comments on the moment a witness is giving evidence, are not regular, I am perfectly satisfied that it is a regularity which never yet was adhered to in the course of any examination. With respect to my ideas of Mr. Murphy, I profess that every sentiment I entertain of him from any portion of personal knowledge, or any thing I have been in the habit of hearing of him from my youth, has been much in his favour. If I could be persuaded to entertain a prepossession against him, such a conversion of opinion could only arise from the circumstance of his being brought to fill the place of Mr. Hargrave; a man celebrated for his learning, distinguished for his integrity, and with so nice a sense of rectitude, that if he ever deviated into error, it has only been from an excess of delicacy—with a knowledge of the laws of England, surpassed by none of his Majesty's first law officers [*looking towards the Master of the Rolls*]. Such an event only could alter my favourable sentiments of Mr. Murphy, because the removal of Mr. Hargrave affords a presumption that something is meant to be perpetrated, to which his high character is a pledge to the country, that he cannot be prevailed upon to lend himself. With respect to the interruption created by the noble lord, and the censure which he has endeavoured to pronounce against me to his hearers, I shall only remark, that if the noble lord assumes the office of censor in this House, and if it be necessary to the politeness of this assembly that such an officer should be appointed, the noble lord may make himself secure of my vote, for there is no person under the lash of whose reprobation I shall feel less, than under that of the noble lord. My honourable friend, Mr. Marsham, has said, that warmth should be allowed to me on the present occasion; whether

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ther the interest I feel in this subject warrants such an indulgence, I know not; but this I know, that I feel, and that I glory in feeling warm upon the present occasion! I should be the most base, the most ungrateful, and the most desppicable of mankind if I were insensible to the warmest sentiments of animation in the business so interesting to a body of men, to whom I am bound in every tie of gratitude; but the wonder is not that I, or a particular part of the House, should feel warm upon a subject in which the dearest, the unalienable, the most invaluable rights of the whole body of the electors of Great-Britain are deeply involved; the wonder is, that there should not be an

universal glow, an emulation for zeal in every member of this House! If the House disapprove of what I have said, they may censure me: they cannot make me retract it. I shall continue to insist on the truth and propriety of what I have said: I will not retract one syllable, one letter of it; nor even one shade of an idea on the subject: but, if Mr. Murphy is in the House, and I shall not be sorry that he is, I will repeat it to him, in that, or any other shape in which I may assert the propriety of the question."

Mr. Pitt said a few words, upon the eloquent invectives he said he had just heard; and then desired Mr. Murphy to be called in.

A S T R O N O M Y.

ON THE MEANS OF DISCOVERING THE DISTANCE, MAGNITUDE, &c. OF THE FIXED STARS, IN CONSEQUENCE OF THE DIMINUTION OF THE VELOCITY OF THEIR LIGHT, IN CASE SUCH A DIMINUTION SHOULD BE FOUND TO TAKE PLACE IN ANY OF THEM, AND SUCH OTHER DATA SHOULD BE PROCURED FROM OBSERVATIONS, AS WOULD BE FARTHER NECESSARY FOR THAT PURPOSE. BY THE REV. JOHN MICHELL, B. D. F. R. S. IN A LETTER TO HENRY CAVENDISH, ESQ. F. R. S. AND A. S.

Read November 27, 1783.

DEAR SIR,

THE method, which I mentioned to you when I was last in London, by which it might perhaps be possible to find the distance, magnitude, and weight of some of the fixed stars, by means of the diminution of the velocity of their light, occurred to me soon after I wrote what is mentioned by Dr. Priestley in his History of Optics, concerning the diminution of the velocity of light in consequence of the attraction of the sun; but the extreme difficulty, and perhaps impossibility, of procuring the other data necessary for this purpose appeared to me to be such objections against the scheme, when I first thought of it, that I gave it then no farther consideration. As some late observations, however, begin to give us a little more chance of procuring some at least of

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Thorndhill, May 26, 1783.

these data, I thought it would not be amiss, that astronomers should be apprized of the method I propose (which, as far as I know, has not been suggested by any one else) lest, for want of being aware of the use which may be made of them, they should neglect to make the proper observations when in their power; I shall therefore beg the favour of you to present the following paper on this subject to the Royal Society. I am, &c.

THE very great number of stars that have been discovered to be double, triple, &c. particularly by Mr. Herschel*, if we apply the doctrine of chances, as I have heretofore done in my "Enquiry into the probable Parallax, &c. of the Fixed Stars," published in the Philosophical Transactions for the year 1767, cannot leave a doubt

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* See his Catalogue of Stars of this kind, published in the Philosophical Transactions for the year 1782, which is indeed a most valuable present to the astronomical world. By a happy application of very high magnifying powers to his telescopes, and by a most persevering industry in observing, he has made a very wonderful progress in this branch of astronomy, in which almost nothing of any consequence had been done by any one before him.

with any one, who is properly aware of the force of those arguments, that by far the greatest part, if not all of them, are systems of stars so near to each other, as probably to be liable to be affected sensibly by their mutual gravitation; and it is therefore not unlikely, that the periods of the revolutions of some of these about their principals (the smaller ones being, upon this hypothesis, to be considered as satellites to the other) may some time or other be discovered.

2. Now the apparent diameter of any central body, round which any other body revolves, together with their apparent distance from each other, and the periodical time of the revolving body being given, the density of the central body will be given likewise. See Sir Isaac Newton's *Prin. B. III. Pr. viii. Cor. 1.*

3. But the density of any central body being given, and the velocity any other body would acquire by falling towards it from an infinite height, or, which is the same thing, the velocity of a comet revolving in a parabolic orbit, at its surface, being given, the quantity of matter, and consequently the real magnitude of the central body, would be given likewise.

4. Let us now suppose the particles of light to be attracted in the same manner as all other bodies with which we are acquainted; that is, by forces bearing the same proportion to their *vis inertiae*, of which there can be no reasonable doubt, gravitation being, as far as we know, or have any reason to believe, an universal law of nature. Upon this supposition then, if any one of the fixed stars, whose density was known by the above-mentioned means, should be large enough sensibly to affect the velocity of the light issuing from it, we should have the means of knowing its real magnitude, &c.

5. It has been demonstrated by Sir Isaac Newton, in the 39th proposition of the first book of his *Principia*, that if a right line be drawn, in the direction of which a body is urged by any forces whatsoever, and there be erected at right angles to that line perpendiculars every where proportional to

the forces at the points, at which they are erected respectively, the velocity acquired by a body beginning to move from rest, in consequence of being so urged, will always be proportional to the square root of the area described by the aforesaid perpendiculars. And hence,

6. If such a body, instead of beginning to move from rest, had already some velocity in the direction of the same line, when it began to be urged by the aforesaid forces, its velocity would then be always proportional to the square root of the sum or difference of the aforesaid area, and another area, whose square root would be proportional to the velocity which the body had before it began to be so urged; that is, to the square root of the sum of those areas, if the motion acquired was in the same direction as the former motion, and the square root of the difference, if it was in a contrary direction. See *Cor. 2. to the aforesaid proposition.*

7. In order to find, by the foregoing proposition, the velocity which a body would acquire by falling towards any other central body, according to the common law of gravity, let *C* in the figure, represent the centre of the central body, towards which the falling body is urged, and let *CA* be a line drawn from the point *C*, extending infinitely towards *A*. If then the line *RD* be supposed to represent the force, by which the falling body would be urged at any point *D*, the velocity which it would have acquired by falling from an infinite height to the place *D*, would be the same as that which it would acquire by falling from *D* to *C* with the force *RD*, the area of the infinitely extended hyperbolic space *ADRB*, where *RD* is always inversely proportional to the square of *DC*, being equal to the rectangle *RC* contained between the lines *RD* and *CD*. From hence we may draw the following corollaries.

8. *Cor. 1.* The central body *DEF* remaining the same, and consequently the forces at the same distances remaining the same likewise, the areas of the rectangles *RC*, *rC* will always be inversely

versely as the distances of the points D, d from C , their sides RD, rd being inversely in the duplicate ratio of the sides CD, Cd : and, therefore, because the velocity of a body falling from an infinite height towards the point C , is always in the sub-duplicate ratio of these rectangles, it will be in the sub-duplicate ratio of the lines CD, Cd inversely. Accordingly the velocities of comets revolving in parabolic orbits are always in the sub-duplicate ratio of their distances from the sun inversely; and the velocities of the planets, at their mean distances (being always in a given ratio to the velocity of such comets, *viz.* in the sub-duplicate ratio of 1 to 2) must necessarily observe the same law likewise.

9. Cor. 2. The magnitude of the central body remaining the same, the velocity of a body falling towards it from an infinite height will always be, at the same distance from the point C , taken any where without the central body, in the sub-duplicate ratio of its density; for in this case the distance Cd will remain the same, the line rd only being increased or diminished in the proportion of the density, and the rectangle RC consequently increased or diminished in the same proportion.

10. Cor. 3. The density of the central body remaining the same, the velocity of a body falling towards it from an infinite height will always be as its semi-diameter, when it arrives at the same proportional distance from the point C ; for the weights, at the surfaces of different sphères of the same density are as their respective semi-diameters; and therefore the sides RD and CD , or any other sides rd and Cd , which are in a given ratio to those semi-diameters, being both increased or diminished in the same proportion, the rectangles RC or rdC will be increased or diminished in the duplicate ratio of the semi-diameter CD , and consequently the velocity in the simple ratio of CD .

11. Cor. 4. If the velocity of a body falling from an infinite height towards different central bodies is the same, when it arrives at their surfaces, the density of those central bodies must

be in the duplicate ratio of their semi-diameters inversely; for, by the last cor. the density of the central body remaining the same, the rectangle RC will be in the duplicate ratio of CD ; in order, therefore, that the rectangle RC may always remain the same, the line RD must be inversely, as CD , and consequently the density inversely, as the square of CD .

12. Cor. 5. Hence the quantity of matter contained in those bodies must be in the simple ratio of their semi-diameters directly; for the quantity of matter being always in a ratio compounded of the simple ratio of the density, and the triplicate ratio of their semi-diameters, if the density is in the inverse duplicate ratio of the semi-diameters, this will become the direct triplicate and inverse duplicate, that is, when the two are compounded together, the simple ratio of the semi-diameters.

13. The velocity a body would acquire by falling from an infinite height towards the sun, when it arrived at his surface, being, as has been said before in article 3d, the same with that of a comet revolving in a parabolic orbit in the same place, would be about 20,72 times greater than that of the earth in its orbit at its mean distance from the sun; for the mean distance of the earth from the sun, being about 214,64 of the sun's semi-diameters, the velocity of such a comet would be greater at that distance than at the distance of the earth from the sun, in the sub-duplicate ratio of 214,64 to 1, and the velocity of the comet being likewise greater than that of planets, at their mean distances, in the sub-duplicate ratio of 2 to 1; these, when taken together, will make the sub-duplicate ratio of 429,28 to 1, and the square root of 429,28 is 20,72, very nearly.

14. The same result would have been obtained by taking the line RD proportional to the force of gravity at the sun's surface, and DC equal to his semi-diameter, and from thence computing a velocity, which should be proportional to the square root of the area RC when compared with the square root

root of another area, one of whose sides should be proportional to the force of gravity at the surface of the earth; and the other should be, for instance, equal to 16 feet, 1 inch, the space a body would fall through in one second of time, in which case it would acquire a velocity of 32 feet, 2 inches per second. The velocity thus found compared with the velocity of the earth in its orbit, when computed from the same elements, necessarily gives the same result. I have made use of this latter method of computation upon a former occasion, as may be seen in Dr. Priestley's History of Optics, p. 787, &c. but I have rather chosen to take the velocity from that of a comet, in the article above, on account of its greater simplicity, and its more immediate connexion with the subject of this paper.

15. The velocity of light, exceeding that of the earth in its orbit, when at its mean distance from the sun, in the proportion of about 10.310 to 1, if we divide 10.310 by 20.72, the quotient 497, in round numbers, will express the number of times, which the velocity of light exceeds the velocity a body could acquire by falling from an infinite height towards the sun, when it arrived at his surface; and an area whose square root should exceed the square root of the area RC, where RD is supposed to represent the force of gravity at the surface of the sun, and CD is equal to his semi-diameter, in the same proportion, must consequently exceed the area RC in the proportion of 247.009, the square of 497 to 1.

16. Hence, according to article 10, if the semi-diameter of a sphære of the same density with the sun were to exceed that of the sun in the proportion of 500 to 1, a body falling from an infinite height towards it, would have acquired at its surface a greater velocity than that of light, and consequently, supposing light to be attracted by the same force in proportion to its *vis inertiae*, with other bodies, all light emitted from such a body would be made to return towards it, by its own proper gravity.

17. But if the semi-diameter of a sphære, of the same density with the sun, was of any other size less than 497 times that of the sun, though the velocity of the light emitted from such a body, would never be wholly destroyed, yet would it always suffer some diminution, more or less, according to the magnitude of the said sphære; and the quantity of this diminution may be easily found in the following manner: suppose S to represent the semi-diameter of the sun, and aS to represent the semi-diameter of the proposed sphære; then, as appears from what has been shewn before, the square root of the difference between the square of 497 S and the square of aS will be always proportional to the ultimately remaining velocity, after it has suffered all the diminution it can possibly suffer from this cause; and consequently the difference between the whole velocity of light, and the remaining velocity, as found above, will be the diminution of its velocity. And hence the diminution of the velocity of light emitted from the sun, on account of its gravitation towards that body, will be somewhat less than a 494.0000th part of the velocity which it would have had if no such diminution had taken place; for the square of 497 being 247.009, and the square of 1 being 1, the diminution of the velocity will be the difference between the square root of 247.009, and the square root of 247.008, which amounts, as above, to somewhat less than one 494.000th part of the whole quantity.

18. The same effects would likewise take place, according to article 11, if the semi-diameters were different from those mentioned in the two last articles, provided the density was greater or less in the duplicate ratio of those semi-diameters inversely.

19. The better to illustrate this matter, it may not be amiss to take a particular example. Let us suppose then, that it should appear from observations made upon some one of those double stars above alluded to, that one of the two performed its revolution round the other in 64 years, and that the central one was of the same density

sity with the sun, which it must be, if its apparent diameter, when seen from the other body, was the same as the apparent diameter of the sun would be if seen from a planet revolving round him in the same period: let us further suppose, that the velocity of the light of the central body was found to be less than that of the sun, or other stars whose magnitude was not sufficient to affect it sensibly, in the proportion of 19 to 20. In this case then, according to article 17, the square root of 247.009 SS must be to the square root of the difference between 247.009 SS and aaSS as 20 to 19. But the squares of 20 and 19 being 400 and 361, the quantity 247.009 SS must therefore be to the difference between this quantity and aaSS in the same proportion, that is as 247.009 to 222.925.62; and aaSS must consequently be equal to 24.083.38 SS, whose square root 155.2 S nearly, or, in round numbers, 155 times the diameter of the sun, will be the diameter of the central star sought.

20. As the squares of the periodical times of bodies, revolving round a central body, are always proportional to the cubes of their mean distances, the distance of the two bodies from each other must therefore, upon the foregoing suppositions, be sixteen times greater in proportion to the diameter of the central body, than the distance of the earth from the sun in proportion to his diameter; and that diameter being already found to be also greater than that of the sun in the proportion of 155.2 to 1, this distance will consequently be greater than that of the earth and sun from each other in the proportion of 16 times 155.2, that is 2483.2 to 1.

21. Let us farther suppose, that from the observations, the greatest distance of the two stars in question appeared to be only one second; we must then multiply the number 2483.2 by 206.264.8, the number of seconds in

the radius of a circle, and the product 512.196.750 will shew the number of times which such a star's distance from us must exceed that of the sun. The quantity of matter contained in such a

star would be 155.2 or 3.738.308 times as much as that contained in the sun; its light, supposing the sun's light to take up 8'. 7". in coming to the earth, would, with its common velocity, require 7.900 years to arrive at us, and 395 years more on account of the diminution of that velocity; and supposing such a star to be equally luminous with the sun, it would still be very sufficiently visible, I apprehend, to the naked eye, notwithstanding its immense distance.

22. In the elements which I have employed in the above computations, I have supposed the diameter of the central star to have been observed, in order to ascertain its density, which cannot be known without it; but the diameter of such a star is much too small to be observed by any telescopes yet existing, or any that it is probably in the power of human abilities to make; for the apparent diameter of the central star, if of the same density with the sun, when seen from another body, which would revolve round it in 64 years, would be only the 1717th part of the distance of those bodies from each other, as will appear from multiplying 107.32, the number of times the sun's diameter is contained in his distance from the earth, by 16, the greater proportional distance of the revolving body, corresponding to 64 years instead of 1. Now the 1717th part of a second must be magnified 309.060 times in order to give it an apparent diameter of three minutes; and three minutes, if the telescopes were mathematically perfect, and there was no want of distinctness in the air, would be but a very small matter to judge of*.

23. But though there is not the least

* In Mr. Herschel's Observations upon the Fixed Stars abovementioned, almost all of them are represented as appearing with a well-defined round disc. That this is not the real disc, but only an optical appearance, occasioned perhaps by the constitution of the eye, when the pencil, by which objects are seen, is so exceedingly small as those which he employed upon this occasion, is very manifest, from the observations themselves, of which indeed Mr. Herschel seems to be himself sufficiently

least probability that this element, so essential to be known, in order to determine with precision the exact distance and magnitude of a star, can ever be obtained, where it is in the same circumstances, or nearly the same, with those above supposed, yet the other elements, such as perhaps may be obtained, are sufficient to determine the distance, &c. with a good deal of probability, within some moderate limits; for in whatever ratio the real distance of the two stars may be greater or less than the distance supposed, the density of the central star must be greater or less in the sixth power of that ratio inversely; for the periodic time of the revolving body being given, the quantity of matter contained in the central body must be as the cube of their distance from each other. See Sir I. Newton's *Prin. b.* 3d. pr. 8th.

cor. 3d. But the quantity of matter in different bodies, at whose surfaces the velocity acquired by falling from an infinite height is the same, must be, according to art. 12, directly as their semi-diameters; the semi-diameters, therefore, of such bodies must be in the triplicate ratio of the distance of the revolving body; and consequently their densities, by art. 11, being in the inverse duplicate ratio of their semi-diameters, must be in the inverse sextuplicate ratio of the distance of the revolving body. Hence if the real distance should be greater or less than that supposed, in the proportion of two or three to one, the density of the central body must be less or greater, in the first case, in the proportion of 64, or in the latter of 729 to 1.

[To be continued.]

BIOGRAPHY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE LONDON MAGAZINE.

SIR,

IF you will insert in your next number the inclosed pacquet of letters relative to the late great Dr. Johnson, you will much oblige a great number of your correspondents. They have not the claim of originality, but still, on account of their subject, and on account of the real merit of several of them, they seem to deserve preservation.

I am, Sir, your constant reader, and occasional correspondent,

R.

LETTERS AND DETACHED PAPERS RELATIVE TO DR. SAMUEL JOHNSON.

Sparsa coegi.

LETTER I. TO THE PRINTER OF THE ST. JAMES'S CHRONICLE.

MR. BALDWIN,

IT is evident from the conduct of the late Dr. Johnson, that he designed Mr. Boswell for the sole writer of his life. Why else did he furnish

him with such materials for it as were withheld from every other friend? That the Doctor also knew this work would be undertaken by his companion

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ciently aware: if it were not so, the intensity of the light of these stars must either be exceedingly inferior indeed to that of the sun, or they must be immensely larger, otherwise they must have a very sensible parallax; for the sun, if removed to 10.000.000 times his present distance, would still, I apprehend, be of about the brightness of the stars of the sixth magnitude; in which case he must be magnified 1.000.000 times to make his apparent disc of any sensible magnitude; or, on the other hand, if he was only removed to a thousandth part of that distance, then he must be less luminous in the proportion of 1.000.000 to 1, to make him appear no brighter than a star of the sixth magnitude. Now the sun's diameter being contained nearly 215 times in the diameter of the earth's orbit, the annual parallax therefore of such a body in that case, if it was placed in the pole of the ecliptic, would be 215 times its apparent diameter; and as the bright star in Lyra appeared to Mr. Herschel about a third part of a second in diameter, if this was its real disc, and it was no bigger than the sun, it would consequently have an annual parallax in the pole of the ecliptic of about 72¹¹.

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to the Hebrides will be proved by living evidence. Little indeed did he suppose that a person whom he had made one of his executors would have instantly claimed the office of his biographer. Still less could he have imagined that this self-appointment would have been precipitately confirmed by the booksellers.

Dr. Johnson intended the destruction of all papers that might afford assistance to those injudicious and incapable compilers of memoirs whom he had but too much reason to fear. A few scraps of petite information are, however, said to have escaped his diligence, and by what means is not unknown. The quality also of these trifles is understood, for the examination of them was not restrained to any one out of his three executors.—Where and in what company our author dined—how often he forgot the return of his birth or wedding-day—when he began to chew liquorice for his cough—or take opium to secure his rest—

are particulars without which the world can sleep in tranquillity. Yet of articles equally splendid and momentous a certain vaunted diary is said to consist.

The value of Mr. Boswell's intelligence is unquestionably ascertained. It must be genuine, because received from the deceased. It must be copious, as it is the result of enquiries continued through a period of more than twenty years. It must be exact, because committed to paper as fast as communicated; and cannot fail to convey instruction, as it will be enriched with a multitude of original letters by Dr. Johnson, on a variety of subjects.—Let the opposer of Mr. Boswell prove the authenticity and consequence of his materials in a manner as satisfactory to the public. The public may then judge between our rival biographers, and decide on their respective claims to confidence and support.

I am, Sir,
Your most obedient servant, &c.

LETTER II.

IN ANSWER TO THE ABOVE.

TO THE PRINTER OF THE ST. JAMES'S CHRONICLE.

SIR,

I read in your paper with the highest satisfaction a character of my illustrious friend Dr. Samuel Johnson*, by a writer who does me the honour to pay me distinguished compliments, as the intended biographer of that great and good man. I am only afraid, that while he animates my mind to its best exertions, he may teach the public to expect too much from me. Upon my honour I have not the least notion who this writer is. But his knowledge of the intimacy between Dr. Johnson and me, and of my means of obtaining information for writing his life, is so particular, that were it not expressed with more elegance than I were master of, I should almost believe that his essay was written by myself. If the writer will have the generosity to avow

himself in your paper, I shall be very much obliged to him. But if he has any objection to a public discovery, I entreat he may be kind enough to let me know by a private note to whom I am indebted for such encouraging notice, that I may testify my gratitude, and may be further indebted to him for his advice in the progress of my labours.

And as my name has, upon the late much-lamented occasion been often mentioned in the newspapers, I think it proper solemnly to declare, that I have not sent a single article, nor shall I send one, without being signed with my name.

JAMES BOSWELL.
Edinburgh, Jan. 18, 1785.

LETTER III.

SAMUEL JOHNSON.

MR. TYERS, speaking of the deceased, asserts that "his temper was

not naturally smooth." How far our ingenious biographer can ascertain the truth

* See the next letter,

truth of this remark is at present unknown; but one whose intimacy with Dr. Johnson continued without interruption, or even a coldness on either side, through upwards of nineteen years, one who saw him at all hours, and in all situations, begs leave to observe that his frame of mind rarely appeared discomposed, except when ignorance attempted to pass itself on him for learning. But even such provocations he endured, without resentment, perhaps longer than any man possessed of the same consciousness of superior knowledge would have borne them. When urged at last beyond the bounds of common patience, though furnished with a *giant's strength*, he thought it *tyrannous to use it like a giant*, and generally was content to play with the victim whom he might have annihilated. Even when he was proceeding to rigorous justice, he afforded warning of its stroke. He put forth "first a whisker, and then a claw." Time was afforded for retreat, but pertinacious emptiness and vanity were sure of their reward, and who can say it was undeserved?

To a race of beings who visited him only to collect materials for conversation, to hear what he would say, with a design to scatter his remarks as their own in other companies, he might sometimes be industriously severe, or turn their design against themselves, by delivering opinions purposely erroneous and absurd. To those whom he seriously disliked, he was "close as oak." He had been told that a catalogue of his works was coveted by one who would have made no better use of it, than to display it as a mark of peculiar confidence reposed in himself. "I have therefore (said the Doctor) amused myself with hearing him recite a list of performances, some of which I had never written, nay, had never heard of, without the slightest objection to their authenticity. The time is coming when I can derive comfort only from recollecting the tenour of what I have published, and not from the number of pieces which the zeal of friends, or the motives of interested people, would induce me to acknow-

ledge. Had it pleased God to alleviate my sufferings, and extend the limits of my life, I would have collected and amended my own works; but, as I fear a period to my existence approaches, the task of selection must be abandoned to chance. An assignment of my labours to the care of some friends has been proposed, with a view to my own immediate benefit. But, for what the booksellers have once paid, they ought not to pay again, unless additions or improvements could have entitled me to fresh emolument." —This is the sum of what he observed relative to his writings. The little he added on the subject may be as well suppressed as divulged. The trade will scarce permit the bulk of the projected volumes to be diminished on the score of any reasons that can now be offered.

"I have cause to believe (says Mr. Tyers) he has left a manuscript biography behind him." Nothing of this kind, however, has been discovered, except an imperfect diary, begun about the year 1764, and containing little beside notices of whom he dined with on such or such a day, with other particulars equally trivial and uninteresting.—May this MS. prove more useful than a certain collection made, by George Faulkener of Dublin, for the lives of Dryden and Swift! Poor George's materials comprised only the following information — "that the laureat was accustomed to sit in a big chair among the wits at Buttons," and that the dean "was a man who had wax in his ears." "But this (says George) my friends telling me not being sufficient for lives of said poets, I accordingly discontinued them."

To Mr. Boswell the public will be indebted, on the subject of our author's life, for genuine and ample information as well as entertainment. He has been happy in resources that were obvious to none but himself. He was acquainted with the *mollia fandi tempora*, and improved them to the best advantage. His playful importunities and anxious solicitations, were alike prevalent with Johnson. If he failed once in an enquiry, he renewed it at a

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more lucky hour, and seldom retired without the intelligence he sought. During his long association with the Doctor in England, as well as throughout his Hebridian tour, he may be pronounced to have lost no opportunity of search respecting the past occurrences of our author's life, or his sentiments relative to men and literature; nor will it be suspected by those who are acquainted with Mr. Boswell's active mind, that his curiosity permitted one circumstance to escape him that might illustrate the habits, or exalt the character of the sage whom he respected almost to adoration.

One caution, however, may be necessary even to Mr. Boswell. Let him not disgrace his page by an implicit adoption of such narratives as are dictated by those who are intent only on procuring celebrity to their own equi-

vocal though boasted friendship and munificence, without too much solicitude for the cause of truth, or the memory of Johnson! Let our biographer be as minute as Mr. Tyers, without his credulity; nor be persuaded to puff the living into fallacious consequence, while he is erecting a monument worthy of the dead. Let puffs be restrained within their proper channel, the news. From paragraphs we may learn, almost every day, who wishes to be thought of as the "*confidential friend***" of Johnson; but let not the sober biographer degrade himself by taking such a task out of the hands of the poor, the shallow, the interested, and the vain, who strive, by means like these, to suggest themselves into notice to which they have no pretensions, except their necessities and their wishes.

LETTER IV. SAMUEL JOHNSON.

THOSE who were only familiar with the magnitude of Dr. Johnson's talents and the purity of his mind, without acquaintance with his peculiar habits, have often expressed their wonder on finding how accessible he was to many persons neither eminent for literature or virtue. This circumstance has been imputed by some to his love of society, and by others to his dread of solitude, which might induce meditations on death too frequent to be welcome. To neither of these causes, however, was the solicited and sometimes degrading mixture of company found about him, to be attributed—a mixture more heterogeneous than ever perhaps appeared within the walls of any private dwelling.—The truth is, he had passed many years under constant apprehensions of insanity, and his best endeavours were employed to stop its advances, by cutting off its supplies. He had studied the tendency of his own excursive mind, had observed in it "the flying vapours of incipient madness," and knew from what quarter the tempest was to be

London. April 1785.

feared. His *History of a learned Man* in *Rasselas*, describes the state of his own feelings on this melancholy subject; and in the character of *Imlac* he has pointed out the methods he himself adopted, to guard against what he justly calls the most alarming of all uncertainties, the uncertain continuance of reason. This consideration was always uppermost in his thoughts, insomuch, that when he was first attacked by paralytic symptoms, "I waked (said he) and finding myself uncommonly disordered, addressed a prayer to the Almighty, humbly beseeching him in his mercy, whatever he determined respecting my body, not to disflurb my mind."—Shall we break in on our narrative too much, if we observe that his petition was finally granted, and that he expired in a tranquillity like that of sleep?

His wish, therefore, that he might, as rarely as possible, be left alone to the dominion of any one tyrannical idea, will account for his regular and indiscriminate admission of visitors. Hence tradesmen without customers,

K k physicians

* See the newspapers, *paffim*.—N. B. Dr. Heberden was a constant attendant on Dr. Johnson throughout his last illness; but of this eminent physician the public prints exhibit not the slightest mention.—His skill, his learning, and his humanity, ask no diurnal recommendations.

physicians without practice, artists without employers, and preachers without audiences, were so often by the Doctor's side. The prosperous, in the same callings, were ambitious of this honour for obvious reasons; but some of those of a different description were actuated by other views, thought their mercantile interests befriended by his countenance, and regarded his notice only as a passport to success in their several vocations.

A period, alas! is now arrived, when his petty civilities, his casual attentions, to visitants of this second class, may be construed into his acknowledgement of their learning or their virtues; and many a man who is acquainted with some of our author's numerous biographers may secure a degree of celebrity to himself, by obtaining a junction of his name with that of the deceased. Admit the accounts which some have delivered in respecting their particular consequence, and each of them was a denizen of his heart. Believe the narratives of others, and Johnson must appear a subordinate personage in his own drama. His wit will "pale its ineffectual fires" when compared with the sparkling promptitude of medical repartee, and his sense will be found wanting in the balance, when weighed against the stores of prebendal wisdom. One of these ecclesiastics (one already famed for his skilful and pathetic enunciation of the burial service) has boasted, not of honours he has, but (if he be credited) of such as he might have enjoyed. "I might have been (said he to a young painter) my friend Sam's executor, but declined the office*.—I grant that in conversation he was more ready than I am, but the public concur in allowing me the preference as a writer."—Silly

old fellow! to make a boy the confidante of what a child could not believe! We hope we shall hear no more of this—nor, from another quarter, of Dr. Johnson's "superstitious fear of death," and "terrors of instant annihilation†." The world has entertained few apprehensions of this kind, since it was enabled to prove, from a certain Harveian oration, that those *who have died once, may live to die over again.*

Let not, however, the cloud that so constantly hung over the mind of our great and venerable Johnson, prove an equal source of calamity to those who may have been induced to believe that none but the honest or eminent in their various pursuits and professions were to be found under his roof. Every Christian may safely adopt such rules as the author of the Rambler has laid down for the moral conduct of life. But let it likewise be understood that somewhat of importance may be hazarded by admitting all whom he admitted to familiarity, and by treating all in whom he confided, with a similar degree of confidence. Unfeignedly pious himself, he was often duped by a semblance of piety in others; and though not to be imposed on by specious pretences to literature, he was rarely proof against the arts of hypocrisy and adulation, that accommodate themselves to every caprice, and afford an echo to every opinion.

Such arts *have* been practised among those who take places for their own names in catch-penny vehicles of biography—who scribble accounts of their own problematic friendship, &c. to be inserted in public prints—and who are ambitious, by *any* means to snatch a plume from the hearse of Johnson.

LETTER V.

SIR,

A Few particulars concerning Mr. Levet, on whose memory Dr. Johnson

has bestowed an elegiac copy of verses, may not be unacceptable to your readers.

Mr.

* Volpone (himself upwards of seventy years of age) assured the Doctor he had appointed him his sole executor and heir; and no doubt expected such pretended confidence and kindness would have been repaid by real trust and liberality of a similar kind, at least by a substantial acknowledgement.

† Dr. Johnson's solemn confession of faith, committed to paper by his own hand, and published with his will, affords the most complete refutation of such a calumny. Q. Has it ever appeared? E.D.R.

1785.

Mr. by birth ter at surgeon him o tive to for his tions furnish know missio and ar profet intro forde maint of his reside under wishire riour He b morn by h day v patie est ra of hi lectu port meet dition (said dera 'The look pow judge

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Mr. Levet*, though an Englishman by birth†, became early in life a waiter at a coffee-house in Paris. The surgeons who frequented it, finding him of an inquisitive turn, and attentive to their conversation, made a purse for him, and gave him some instructions in their art. They afterwards furnished him with the means of other knowledge, by procuring him free admission to such lectures in pharmacy and anatomy as were read by the ablest professors of that period. Hence his introduction to a business which afforded him a continual though slender maintenance. Where the middle part of his life was spent is uncertain. He resided, however, almost thirty years under the roof of Johnson, who never wished him to be regarded as an inferior, or treated him like a dependant‡. He breakfasted with the Doctor every morning, and perhaps was seen no more by him till midnight. Much of the day was employed in attendance on his patients, who were chiefly of the lowest rank of tradesmen. The remainder of his hours he dedicated to Hunter's lectures, and to as many different opportunities of improvement as he could meet with on the same gratuitous conditions. "All his physical knowledge (said Johnson) and it is not inconsiderable§, was obtained through the ear. Though he buys books, he seldom looks into them, or discovers any power by which he can be supposed to judge of an author's merit."

Before he became a constant inmate of the Doctor's house, he married a woman who had persuaded him (notwithstanding their place of congress was a smallcoal-shed in Fetter-lane) that she was nearly related to a nobleman, but was injuriously kept by him out of large possessions. It is almost needless to add that both parties were disappointed in their views.—If Levet took her for an heiress, who in time

might be rich, she regarded him as a physician already in considerable practice—Compared with the marvels of this transaction (as Johnson himself declared when relating them) the tales in the Arabian Nights' Entertainments seem familiar occurrences. Never was infant more completely imposed on than our hero.—He had not many days been married before he was arrested for debts incurred by his wife.—In a short time afterwards she was tried (providentially in his opinion) for theft, at the Old-Bailey. Levet attended the court, in the hope she would be hanged; and very angry was he with the counsel who undertook her defence.—"I once thought (said he) the man had been my friend, but this behaviour of his has proved the contrary."—She was acquitted, and Johnson himself concerted the terms of separation for this ill-starred couple, and then took Levet home, where he continued till his death, which happened suddenly, without pain, and at the age of more than eighty.—As no relations of his were known to Dr. Johnson, he advertised for them. In the course of a few weeks an heir at law appeared, and ascertained his title to what effects the deceased had left behind him.

Levet's character was rendered valuable by repeated proofs of honesty, tenderness, and gratitude to his benefactor, as well as by an unwearied diligence in his profession.—His single failing (if it may be called one) was an occasional departure from sobriety. Johnson would observe, he was perhaps the only man who ever became intoxicated through motives of prudence. He reflected, that if he refused the gin or brandy offered him by some of his patients, he could have been no gainer by their cure, as they might have had nothing else to bestow on him. This habit of taking a fee in whatever shape it was exhibited could

K k 2

not

* For an account of Mr. Levet, and for Dr. Johnson's verses on his death, the reader may consult the London Magazine.

† He was born at Hull, in Yorkshire.

‡ Dr. Johnson has frequently observed that Levet was indebted to him for nothing more than house room, his share in a penny loaf at breakfast, and now and then a dinner on a Sunday.

§ He had acted for many years in the capacity of physician, surgeon, and apothecary to Johnson. After the good and learned Dr. Lawrence retired from business, the care of our author devolved to Levet. Heberden was not called in to him till his illness in the year 1783. Levet died in January, 1782.

not be put off by advice or admonition of any kind. He would swallow what he did not like, nay what he knew would injure him, rather than go home with an idea that his skill had been exerted without recompence. "Had (said Johnson) all his patients maliciously combined to reward him with meat and strong liquors, instead of money, he would either have burst, like the dragon in the Apocrypha, through repletion, or have been scorched up, like Portia, by swallowing fire."—But let not from hence an imputation of rapaciousness be fixed upon him. Though he took all that was offered him, he demanded nothing from the poor, nor was known, in any

instance, to have enforced the payment of even what was justly his due.

His person was middle-sized and thin; his visage swarthy, adust, and corrugated. His conversation, except on professional subjects, barren. When in dishabille he might have been mistaken for an alchemist, whose complexion had been hurt by the fumes of the crucible, and whose clothes had suffered from the sparks of the furnace.

Such was Levet, whose whimsical frailty, if weighed against his good and useful qualities, was

"A floating atom, dust that falls unheeded
"Into the adverse scale, nor shakes the balance."

IRENE.

I am, Sir,
Your most humble servant, &c.

L E T T E R VI.

J O H N S O N I A N A.

FOR the shortness of Dr. Johnson's stay at college, and his retirement from it without taking a degree, no reasons have hitherto been assigned. There is cause, however, to suspect that he was sent to the university by the private subscription of a few individuals belonging to the cathedral of Litchfield, who, with "the prophetic eye of taste," looked forward to his future attainments. These gentlemen, in a fit of zeal which rarely enquires into its own duration, might have designed to become his lasting patrons; but it is equally probable that the stream of their bounty diminished gradually, and was dried up at last.—Every one is acquainted with the uncertain influx of voluntary contributions.—To this circumstance we may add, that the peculiar manners of Johnson were by no means adapted to conciliate favour among a set of men who are more frequently influenced by a specious outside, than by solid learning*. His superior application and vivacity might also be considered as a reproach on the idle, and as a contrast to the dull; nor would people who regarded him in such lights prove at all anxious for his accommodation among them by the aid of those stipendary indulgences which many colleges can bestow. It

is not unlikely, therefore, that (as he himself has said of Gray) he "lived sullenly on," till he was either disgusted with his quarters, or starved out of them.—But Dr. Adams, once tutor to Dr. Johnson, and now master of Pembroke College, Oxford, is still in being, and can perhaps illustrate so obscure a period of our author's life.—Be thankful, ye future biographers, for this intelligence! It may serve as a useful hint to such of you as are not too mean and inglorious to expect assistance, or too insolent and illiberal to deserve it.

While Johnson, however, remained at college, he was in a state not very far removed from indigence. He has been seen with his naked feet appearing through the upper leathers of his shoes. A new pair was once left at his door; but he threw them away with indignation. He could not stoop to accept any thing so indelicately obtruded on his necessities.

Even after his arrival in London he acknowledged himself to have rambled more than once all night about the streets with his friend Savage, because their joint purses could not raise a sum sufficient to pay for the most humble lodging.

He confessed himself likewise to have

* See the History of a Fellow of a College, in Pompey the Little.

have been sometimes in the power of bailiffs. Richardson, the author of *Clarissa*, was his constant friend on such occasions. "I remember writing to him (said Johnson) from a spunging-house; and was so sure of my deliverance through his kindness and liberality, that, before his reply was brought, I knew I could afford to joke with the rascal who had me in custody, and did so, over a pint of adulterated wine, for which, at that instant, I had no money to pay."

It has been already often observed that Johnson had lost the sight of one of his eyes. Mr. Ellis, an ancient gentleman now living (author of a very happy burlesque translation of the thirteenth book added to the *Aeneid* by Maffee Vegio) was in the same condition. But, some years after, while he was at Margate, the sight of his eye unexpectedly returned, and that of its fellow became as suddenly extinguished. Concerning the particulars of this singular but authenticated event, Dr. Johnson was studiously inquisitive, and not without reference to his own case. — Though he never made use of glasses to assist his sight, he said he could recollect no production of art to which man has superior obligations. He mentioned the name of the original inventor* of spectacles with reverence, and expressed his wonder that not an individual, out of the multitudes who had profited by them, had, through gratitude, written the life of so great a benefactor to society.

His knowledge in manufactures was extensive, and his comprehension relative to mechanical contrivances was still more extraordinary. The well-known Mr. Arkwright pronounced him to be the only person who, on a first view, understood both the principle and powers of his most complicated piece of machinery.

Dr. Johnson delighted in the company of women. "There are few things (he would say) that we so unwillingly give up, even in an advanced age, as the supposition that we have still the power of ingratiating ourselves with the fair-sex." — Among his fin-

gularities, his love of conversing with the prostitutes whom he met with in the streets was not the least. He has been known to carry some of these unfortunate creatures into a tavern, for the sake of striving to awaken in them a proper sense of their condition. His younger friends now and then affected to tax him with less chastised intentions; but he would answer —

"No, Sir: I have rather been disconcerted and shocked by the replies of these giddy wenches, than flattered, or diverted by their tricks. I remember asking one of them for what purpose she supposed her Maker had bestowed on her so much beauty. Her answer was — To please the gentlemen to be sure; for what other use could it be given me?"

The Doctor is known to have been, like Savage, a very late visitor; yet at whatever hour he returned, he never went to bed without a previous call on Mrs. Williams, the blind lady who for so many years had found protection under his roof. Coming home one morning between four and five, he said to her — "Take notice, madam, that for once I am here before others are asleep. As I turned into the court, I ran against a knot of bricklayers." — "You forget, my dear Sir (replied she) that these people have all been a-bed, and are now preparing for their day's work." — "Is it so then, madam? I confess that circumstance had escaped me."

"Garrick, I hear, complains that I am the only popular author of his time, who has exhibited no praise of him in print; but he is mistaken. Akinside has forborne to mention him. — Some indeed are lavish in their applause of all who come within the compass of their recollection. Yet he who praises every body, praises nobody. When both scales are equally loaded, neither can preponderate."

"Perhaps (said a gentleman) a *cou�e d'elire* has not the force of a positive command, but implies only a strong recommendation." — "Yes (replied Johnson who overheard him) just such a recommendation as if I should throw

you

* The inventor of spectacles is said to have been a monk of Pisa, who lived at the end of the thirteenth century, and whose name was Spina. EDIT.

you out of a three-pair-of-stairs' window, and recommend you to fall to the ground."

The last effusion of our author's pleasantries, was the following.—“ I hope, Sir (says a friend) that the man

whom I recommended to fit up with you was both wakeful and alert.”—

“ Sir (answered the Doctor) his vigilance was that of a dormouse, and his activity that of a turnspit on his first entry into a wheel,”

LETTER VII. JOHNSONIANA.

“ I have been told, Dr. Johnson (says a friend) that your translation of Pope's *Messiah* was made either as a common exercise, or as an imposition for some negligence you had been guilty of at college.”—“ No, Sir (replied the Doctor). At Pembroke the former were always in prose, and to the latter I would not have submitted. I wrote it rather to show the tutors what I could do, than what I was willing should be done. It answered my purpose; for it convinced those who were well enough inclined to punish me, that I could wield a scholar's weapon, as often as I was menaced with arbitrary inflictions.—Before the frequency of personal satire had weakened its effect, the petty tyrants of colleges stood in awe of a pointed remark, or a vindictive epigram. But since every man in his turn has been wounded, no man is ashamed of a scar.”

“ I wrote the first seventy lines in the *Vanity of Human Wishes* in the course of one morning, in that small house beyond the church [at Hampstead.] The whole number was composed before I threw a single couplet on paper. The same method I pursued in regard to the prologue on opening Drury-lane theatre. I did not afterwards change more than a word in it, and that was done at the remonstrance of Garrick. I did not think his criticism just; but it was necessary he should be satisfied with what he was to utter.”

To a gentleman who expressed himself in disrespectful terms of Blackmore, one of whose poetic bulls he happened just then to recollect, Dr. Johnson answered, “ I hope a blunder, after you have heard what I shall relate, will not be reckoned decisive against a

poet's reputation.—When I was a young man, I translated Addison's Latin poem on the *Battle of the Cranes and Pygmies*, and must plead guilty to the following couplet:

“ Down from the guardian boughs the nests they flung,
“ And kill'd the yet unanimated young.”

And yet I trust I am no blockhead.—I afterwards changed the word *kill'd* into *crush'd*. ”

When Dr. Percy first published his Collection of ancient English Ballads, perhaps he was too lavish in commendation of the beautiful simplicity and poetic merit he supposed himself to discover in them. This circumstance provoked Johnson to observe one evening at Miss Reynolds's tea-table, that he could rhyme as well, and as elegantly, in common narrative and conversation. For instance, says he,

As with my hat upon my head
I walk'd along the Strand,
I there did meet another man
With his hat in his hand.

Or, to render such poetry subservient to my own immediate use,

I therefore pray thee, Renny dear,
That thou will give to me,
With cream and sugar soften'd well
Another dish of tea.

Nor fear that I, my gentle maid,
Shall long detain the cup,
When once unto the bottom I
Have drank the liquor up.

Yet hear, alas! this mournful truth,
Nor hear it with a frown;—
Thou can't not make the tea so fast
As I can gulp it down.

And thus he proceeded through several more stanzas, till the reverend critic cried out for quarter. Such ridicule, however, was not unmerited. The editor of the *Biographia Dramatica* judiciously observes, “ it has sometimes happened

happened that those who have been tempted to reprint specimens of the rude poetry of our early writers have likewise persuaded themselves that these trifles were possessed of a further degree of value than they may justly challenge as the records of fugitive customs, or the repositories of ancient language. When Rowe, in his prologue to Jane

Shore, without exception, declared that
“ These venerable ancient song-enditers
“ Soar’d many a pitch above our modern writers,”
he certainly said what he neither believed himself, nor could wish any part of his audience or his readers to believe. Such literary falsehoods deserve to be exposed as often as they are detected.

LETTER VIII.

SIR,

PERMIT me to correct a few mistakes, or, at least, provoke an explanation of a few ambiguities, in Mr. Tyers's Sketch of Dr. Johnson's Life. I honour the motives of the writer; but cannot help wishing he had sometimes been possessed of less credulity, and sometimes had been more decided in his expressions. Respect for the dead, not enmity to the living, has given birth to the following strictures.

“ Private and public prayer, when his visitors were his audience, were his constant exercises.”] Waving all criticism on niceties of phrase, this sentence appears to mean that—Johnson either prayed both audibly and mentally—or, rehearsed the forms of public worship, and such as his own piety could suggest, as often as he had company to hear him.—But is it probable that the sincere and almost dying Johnson would (like the Pharisee, whose religion consisted in external ceremonies) have ostentatiously followed his devotions before a mixed assembly, though he might sometimes do so in the presence of a few intimate friends, who were disposed to join with him in supplication, or partake with him in the holy sacrament?

“ His imagination often appeared too mighty for his reason.”] Were this a fact, the Doctor must be supposed to have frequently thought like an enthusiast, or talked and written like a madman.—Is this a specimen of the laurels which a friendly hand professes to plant around the grave of the deceased? Or is it not rather to be considered as a weed that accidentally sprung up among flowers?

“ He was born for nothing but to write.”] Surely, Johnson was born

to practice virtue, as well as to recommend it; and such a design in his creation appears to have been fulfilled.—His practical virtues indeed are afterwards distinctly enumerated, and prove, in spite of the foregoing quotation, that he was born for somewhat more than to be an author.—Such are the natural consequences of a desultory mode of writing, in which, as in Gonzalo's commonwealth, “ the latter end forgets the beginning.”

“ Night was his time for composition.”] This assertion, if meant for a general one, can be refuted by living evidence. Almost the whole Preface to Shakspere, and no inconsiderable part of the Lives of the Poets, were composed by daylight, and in a room where a friend was employed by him in other investigations. His studies were only continued through the night, when the day had been pre-occupied, or proved too short for his undertakings. Respecting the fertility of his genius, the resources of his learning, and the accuracy of his judgement, *the darkness and the light were both alike.*

“ Mrs. Thrale knew how to spread a table with the utmost plenty and elegance.”] All who are acquainted with this lady's domestic history must know that, in the present instance, Mr. Tyers's praise of her is unluckily bestowed. Her husband superintended every dinner set before his guests. After his death she confessed her total ignorance in culinary arrangements. Poor Thrale studied an art of which he loved the produce, and to which he expired a martyr. Johnson repeatedly, and with all the warmth of earnest friendship, assured him he was *nimis edax rerum,*

rum, and that such unlimited indulgence of his palate would precipitate his end. Little did he think his intemperance would have proved an introduction to his wife's disgrace, by eventually raising an obscure and penitent's finger into sudden wealth and awkward notoriety.

On finishing the *Lives of our Poets* "the booksellers presented him with a gratuity of a hundred pounds."] This hundred pounds, before a living witness, he received from his employers as a *demand*, and not as a *present*. He said he had agreed with them for 300*l.* of which the sum in question was a third. He therefore took it only as his *due*.—Let the most penurious among us tell our own story, and meet with such a degree of credulity as suits our purpose in telling it, and *Timon of Athens* will appear a niggard in comparison with our liberality and magnificence.—Let it not, however, be concealed, that on a republication of the aforesaid *Lives*, &c. in four vols. 8vo. with a Preface, the booksellers paid the Doctor the additional sum of one hundred pounds.

"His intimacy with Dr. Dodd, &c."] Dr. Johnson declared, repeatedly declared to the person who now (however unworthily) holds the pen in his behalf, that he never once had been in company with that unfortunate divine. A knowledge of this circumstance cannot fail to increase every reader's belief in the philanthropy of Johnson.

"That he would not be obliged to any person's liberality but his King's."] This sentiment may have been uttered by Dr. Johnson, but where is the evidence that it was so? It would come with better grace from any one than the gentleman who, by making the offer mentioned, might have provoked such a reply.

"Who builds a church to God, and not to fame,
"Will seldom mark the marble with his name."

Was the above circumstance ever spoken of by Dr. Johnson? Was it known during his life? Or has it been divulged only since his death?

"His last employers wanted him to undertake the life of Spenser."] The King, indeed, is said to have wished

for such an additional piece of biography, but Dr. Johnson himself thought the booksellers were unwilling it should be written, lest they should be expected to reprint an author whose works have, comparatively, very few readers. The Doctor professed a readiness to perform his part in the undertaking, on the slightest intimation that his labours would be accepted. Some collection for them was actually made. He would not have shrunk from a comparison with Mr. Warton's criticisms on this or any other bard.—It was particularly requisite that the authenticity of our biographer's information on this subject should be disputed, that it may be known how little disposed the Doctor was to have neglected the slightest hint from ONE whose zeal for literature is among the brightest ornaments of his exalted situation.

"His funeral was splendidly and numerously attended."] How splendidly, and how numerously, is no secret from the public, who have already paid all due compliments to the Dean and Chapter of Westminster, on account of such matchless gratitude and generosity as they displayed at the complete and solemn inhumation of their great voluntier in the cause of the established Church of England.

But this address to you, Mr. Editor, must not conclude without proper mention of the biographer to a few parts of whose performance the foregoing objections have been made. He designed honour to his departed friend, and in many instances has conferred it.—Where he has failed, his failure must be imputed to haste, or dubious intelligence—or, in short, to any circumstance rather than a voluntary aberration from truth, or the least wish to exhibit the deceased in an unfavourable point of view.—He is likewise requested to believe, that though some of his anecdotes and opinions may have been freely examined, they have neither been wilfully misunderstood, or wantonly misrepresented.

I am, Sir,

Your most humble servant, &c.
I beg leave to add, that no false, reports

reports reflecting on Dr. Johnson's memory, shall long remain uncontradicted in this paper*, even though the malicious tale, or groundless anecdote,

should occur in publications almost too obscure for notice, and too mean for reprehension.

LETTER IX.

JOHNSONIANA.

"PRAY (said Garrick's mother to Johnson) what is your opinion of my son David?"—"Why, madam, replied the Doctor, David will either be hanged, or become a great man."

When Bolingbroke died, and bequeathed the publication of his works to Mallet, Johnson observed "His lordship has loaded a blunderbuss against religion, and has left a scoundrel to pull the trigger."—Being reminded of this a few years ago, the Doctor exclaimed "Did I really say so?"—"Yes, Sir."—He replied, "I am heartily glad of it."

"You knew Mr. Capel, Dr. Johnson?"—"Yes, Sir; I have seen him at Garrick's."—"And what think you of his abilities?"—"They are just sufficient, Sir, to enable him to select the black hairs from the white ones, for the use of the perriwig-makers. Were he and I to count the grains in a bushel of wheat for a wager, he would certainly prove the winner."

When one Collins, a sleep-compelling divine of Herefordshire, with the assistance of Counsellor Hardinge, published a heavy half-crown pamphlet against Mr. Steevens, Garrick asked the Doctor what he thought of this attack on his coadjutor. "I regard Collins's performance (replied Johnson) as a great gun without powder or shot."—When the same Collins afterwards appeared as editor of Capel's posthumous notes on Shakspeare, with a preface of his own, containing the following words—"A sudden and most severe stroke of affliction has left my mind too much distracted to be capable of engaging in such a task [that of a further attack on Mr. Steevens] though I am prompted to it by inclination as well as duty," the Doctor

asked to what misfortune the foregoing words referred. Being told that the critic had lost his wife, Johnson added, "I believe that the loss of teeth may deprave the voice of a singer, and that lameness will impede the motions of a dancing-master, but I have not yet been taught to regard the death of a wife as the grave of literary exertions. When my dear Mrs. Johnson expired, I sought relief in my studies, and strove to lose the recollection of her in the toils of literature.—Perhaps, however, I wrong the feelings of this poor fellow. His wife might have held the pen in his name. *Hinc illæ lachrymæ.* Nay, I think I observe, throughout his two pieces, a woman's irritability with a woman's impotence of revenge."—Yet such were Johnson's tender remembrances of his own wife, that after her death, though he had a whole house at command, he would study no where but in a garret. Being asked the reason why he chose a situation so incommodious, he answered, "Because in that room only I never saw Mrs. Johnson."

"What think you, Dr. Johnson, of Mr. M——n's conversation?"—"I think, Sir, it is a constant renovation of hope, and an unvaried succession of disappointment."

"My dear Sir, don't disturb my feelings (said Garrick to Johnson, one night behind the scenes) consider the exertions I have to go through."—"As to your feelings, David (replied Johnson) Punch has just as many; and as for your exertions, those of a man who cries turneps about the street are greater."

"Were you ever, Sir, in company with Dr. Warburton?"—"I never saw him till one evening, about a week ago, at the Bishop of St. —'s. At

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first

* This laudable resolution was published in the St. James's Chronicle.

first he looked surly at me; but after we had been jostled into conversation, he took me to a window, asked me some questions, and before we parted was so well pleased with me, that he patted me."—" You always, Sir, preserved a respect for him?"—" Yes, and justly. When as yet I was in no favour with the world, he spoke well of me*, and I hope I never forgot the obligation."

" Though you brought a tragedy, Sir, to Drury-lane, and at one time were so intimate with Garrick, you never appeared to have much theatrical acquaintance."—" Sir, while I had, in common with other dramatic authors, the liberty of the scenes, without considering my admission behind them as a favour, I was frequently at the theatre. At that period all the wenches knew me, and dropped me a curtsey as they passed on to the stage. But since poor Goldsmith's last comedy, I scarce recollect having seen the inside of a play-house.—To speak the truth, there is small encouragement there for a man whose sight and hearing are become so imperfect as mine.—I may add, that, Garrick and Henderson excepted, I never met with a performer who had studied his art, or could give an intelligible reason for what he did."

Though Dr. Johnson was no enemy to a proper and well-timed compliment, he would sometimes express his dislike of awkward and hyperbolical adulation. To a literary dame, who had persecuted him throughout a whole afternoon with coarse and incessant flattery (after making several fruitless efforts to stop her career) he said, and loud enough for half the company present to hear, " My dear, before you are so lavish of your praise, you ought to consider whether it be worth having."

" I am convinced (said he to a friend) I ought to be present at divine-service more frequently than I am; but the provocations given by ignorant and affected preachers too often disturb the

mental calm which otherwise would succeed to prayer. I am apt to whisper to myself on such occasions—How can this illiterate fellow dream of fixing attention, after we have been listening to the sublimest truths, conveyed in the most chaste and exalted language, throughout a Liturgy which must be regarded as the genuine offspring of piety impregnated by wisdom.—Take notice, however, though I make this confession respecting myself, I do not mean to recommend the fastidiousness that led me to exchange congregational for solitary worship."—Dr. Johnson, notwithstanding, was at Streatham-church, when the unfortunate Dodd's first application to him was made. The Doctor went out of his pew immediately, wrote a suitable reply to the letter he had received, and afterwards, when he related this circumstance, added, " I hope I shall be pardoned, if for once I deserted the service of God for that of man."

On the night before the publication of the first edition of his *Shakspeare*, he supped with some friends in the Temple, who kept him up, " nothing loth," till past five the next morning. Much pleasantry was passing on the subject of commentatorship; when, all on a sudden, the Doctor, looking at his watch, cried out, " This is sport to you, gentlemen; but you do not consider there are at most only four hours between me and criticism."

Previous to this convivial meeting, Mr. Tonson had desired a gentleman to ask our author if he could ascertain the number of his subscribers. " No (replied the Doctor); two material reasons forbid even a guess of mine on the subject.—I have lost all the names, and spent all the money. It came in in small portions, and departed in the same manner." There were afterwards receipts for near a thousand copies carried in to Tonson.

" I have seldom met with a man whose colloquial ability exceeded that of Mallet.—I was but once in Sterne's company,

* In his Preface to *Shakspeare*.

company, and then his only attempt at merriment consisted in his display of a drawing too indecently gross to have delighted even in a brothel.—Colman never produced a luckier thing than his first ode in ridicule of Gray. A considerable part of it may be numbered among those felicities which no man has twice attained.—Gray was the very Torré of poetry. He played his coruscations so speciously, that his steel-dust is mistaken by many for a shower of gold."

At one period of the Doctor's life, he was reconciled to the bottle. Sweet wines, however, were his chief favourites. When none of these were before him, he would sometimes drink Port, with a lump of sugar in every glass. The strongest liquors, and in very large quantities, produced no other effect on him than moderate exhilaration. Once, and but once, he is known to have had his dose; a circumstance which he himself discovered, on finding one of his sesquipedalian words hang fire.—He then started up, and gravely observed, "I think it time we should go to bed."—After a ten years forbearance of every fluid, except tea and sherbet, "I drank (said he) one glass of wine to the health of Sir Joshua Reynolds, on the evening of the day on which he was knighted. I never swallowed another drop till old Madeira was prescribed to me as a cordial during my present indisposition; but this liquor did not relish as formerly, and I therefore discontinued it."

Every change, however, in his habits, had invariable reference to that insanity which, from his two-and-twentieth year, he had taught himself to apprehend. Whether he had once suffered from a temporary alienation of mind, or expected it only in consequence of some obscure warning he supposed himself to have received, will always remain a secret. To dispel the gloom that so constantly oppressed him, he had originally recourse to wine.

LETTER X.

SIR,

MR. TYERS, author of the Biographical Sketch of Johnson's Life, in

Afterwards, he suspected danger from it: "For (said he) what ferments the spirits may also derange the intellects, and the means employed to counteract dejection may hasten the approach of madness. Even fixed, substantial melancholy is preferable to a state in which we can neither amend the future, nor solicit mercy for the past." Impressed as he was with such ideas, each precaution he could adopt appeared hazardous in its turn. Even his favourite, tea, had been gradually drank by him in reduced quantities, and at last was totally laid aside. Milk became its substitute, and he looked forward to the spring, when he expected his new beverage would prove yet more salutary. "Perhaps (says he) I shall conclude with what I ought to have begun. Milk was designed for our nutriment. Tea, and similar potations, are all adscititious."

At last perhaps his death was accelerated by his own imprudence. If "a little learning is a dangerous thing" on any speculative subject, it is eminently more so in the practical science of physic. Johnson was too frequently his own patient. In October, just before he came to London, he had taken an unusual dose of squills, but without effect. He swallowed the same quantity on his arrival here, and it produced a most violent operation. He did not, as he afterwards confessed, reflect on the difference between the perished and ineffectual vegetable he found in the country, and the fresh and potent one of the same kind he was sure to meet with in town, "You find me at present (says he) suffering from a prescription of my own. When I am recovered from its consequences, and not till then, I shall know the true state of my natural malady." From this period, he took no medicine without the approbation of Heberden.—What follows is known by all, and by all lamented—ere now, perhaps—even by the prebends of Westminster.

the Gentleman's Magazine, informs us that the Doctor "saw better with one

eye than the other," but forbears to account for this unequal ability in his organs of sight. I beg leave, therefore, at once to supply our rhapsodist's deficiency, and confirm his valuable anecdote, by assuring him his late friend Dr. Johnson had, for many years, lost one of his eyes, and consequently could only see with its companion. He himself did not recollect the exact period when he became acquainted with this visual defect, which (as it happened through no external

violence) might, for some time, have escaped even his own observation.

When one eye, however, is extinguished, the other may be regarded as its heir at law, inheriting the powers of a departed relation—*unus sese armat utroque*. This scrap from Strada is not much to the purpose, but Mr. Tyers loves a quotation, and therefore, till I had introduced one, I could not prevail on myself to assure you, Mr. Editor, that I am

Your most humble servant, &c.

Z.

PHILOSOPHICAL

THE Chevalier Landriani has discovered a new and useful method of settling the fixed points of thermometers. The freezing point is not subject to any variation; because water which is in the act of freezing or of thawing remains at 32 deg. of Fahrenheit's thermometer during the whole time employed to reduce it either to a solid or fluid state. This is not the case with the boiling water point or 212 deg. of Fahrenheit's thermometer. The pressure of the atmosphere occasions a considerable variation in the heat of water in a state of ebullition; the ebullition and the maximum of heat taking place at a lower temperature when the weight of the atmosphere is lighter than when it is heavier. M. Landriani's proposal is to make use of subjects which congeal at much higher degrees of heat than water, in order to ascertain another point of congelation, that shall be at a considerable or sufficient distance from the point of congelation in water; sulphur may probably answer this purpose if the flowers be used; and no more heat applied than is sufficient merely to bring it into a state of fluidity.

The following extract from the Italian of M. Landriani may serve to explain his ideas:—"By repeatedly renewing my observations on metallic compositions fusible in boiling water, I was led to the idea of making use of them for the purpose of fixing the degree of heat of boiling water on thermometers. For it is not always pos-

INTELLIGENCE.

sible even on the same spot or place to fix the boiling point on thermometers, without making use of a tedious calculation, because the heat of the water, as is well known, varies according to the weight of air that compresses it. Now there can be no doubt but a small crucible, or any other vessel filled with any metallic composition, fusible at the 80th degree of Reaumur's scale, might serve to determine the heat or the point of boiling water on all kinds of thermometers. Let a thermometer, for example, be immersed in a metallic composition, whose degree of heat exceeds that requisite to render it fluid, it will cease to descend at the instant the metal becomes solid, and will remain stationary at that point for some time. All that is required, therefore, is to procure a metallic composition that will lose its solidity at the 80th degree, and to immerse the thermometer therein that we propose to graduate: for as soon as we perceive that the mercury is in some measure stationary, and that the composition takes a solid form, it will be a certain criterion that the mercury in the thermometer is heated to 80 degrees; that is to say, a heat equal to what it would have acquired if immersed in boiling water."

On this occasion, though M. Landriani is intitled to all the merit of originality for his useful proposition; yet a respect for truth obliges us to observe, that the upper fixed point of Sir Isaac Newton's linseed oil thermometer was settled by detaining the bulb

in

in melted tin till it began to congeal.

M. Fontana has constructed thermometers of great utility in measuring the temperature of fluids. Their bulbs are so small as not to exceed one-tenth of an inch in diameter, though the tube may even exceed ten inches in length. On account of the small mass of these thermometers they almost instantaneously acquire the temperature of the liquor into which they are immersed, and as quickly lose it when taken out. The peculiar part of his method of constructing these instruments consists in taking a tube of a very fine capillary bore, sealing it hermetically at both ends, and grinding away nearly half its thickness. This flat surface is to be polished, and serves to receive the graduations, which are drawn and marked with the fine point of a diamond. The other part of the surface of the tube must be deprived of its polish, in order that the fine capillary cylinder of mercury may be rendered more conspicuous and discernible. In this case, the cavity of the tube being at a very small distance from the flat surface produced by grinding, there is little or no parallax occasioned by the thickness and refractive power of the glass interposed between the line of division and the column of mercury. It is unnecessary to describe the method of blowing the bulb, and filling the thermometer, since these are well known to philosophers and artists.

The philosophical world have great reason to hope that the contested and important question concerning the existence of phlogiston will either be decided or very much elucidated by Mr. Kirwan, who is at present busied on that subject. It is unnecessary for us to observe that this gentleman, in, addition to the original mental powers and acquisitions he possesses, is undoubtedly more intimately acquainted with the present state of chemistry, and that immense mass of facts, which is scattered in a great variety of works in all languages, than any other philosopher in England, or perhaps in Europe.

M. Moyroud, in the year 1782, having presented to the minister of the finances in France, a memoir, in which he asserts himself to be in possession of a particular process, by which, in the fabrication of the natural steel of Dauphiny, above a fourth part of the consumption of coal, and as great a portion of time, might be saved, without being of the least detriment to the quality of the steel; this process appeared to deserve attention. M. Binelli, engineer, and M. Jars, inspector-general of the mines, were therefore appointed to assist M. Moyroud in the trials he offered to make before them, which were performed to their satisfaction, and proved that the advantages to be derived from this process were really such as M. Moyroud had asserted.

After the reports of Mess. Binelli and Jars were made, a reward was granted to M. Moyroud, on condition of his publishing the process, that every manufacturer of steel might reap the advantage of this discovery, by working it in the manner made use of in Dauphiny.

In the ordinary manipulation, as soon as they have taken the melted mass out of the melting pot in the furnace, they hammer it and suffer it to cool before they carry it to the refining furnace.

M. Moyroud's process simply consists in taking advantage of the heat the mass of steel is yet penetrated with, after it has been taken out of the melting pot and undergone the effect of the hammer, to refine it immediately, while hot, and extend it into plates or bars under another hammering. By thus taking the advantage of the heat the mass had acquired in the first furnace, he saves the coals and the time which necessarily must have been taken up to restore the due degree of heat they had uselessly lost. But it must be observed, to obtain this advantage, that it is indispensably necessary to have two forges and two anvils in the manufactory.

Mr. Nicholson has contrived a new instrument, by means of which the plus and

and minus electricities, when strong enough to give the spark, are instantly distinguished from each other. This may be of great advantage to philosophers whose attention is directed to the observation of the phenomena of thunder clouds. It is well known how fallacious the form of the luminous appearance at the extremity of a metallic point is, when made use of for this purpose; and the celebrated Beccaria, in his numerous observations, was under the necessity of using a long pasteboard tube, in which was included two metallic points, whose intervals were the discontinuation of his conductor. The long tube was absolutely necessary to enable him to observe the figure of electric luminous brush with safety by day-light. Mr. Nicholson's invention consists in a metallic ball with which the spark is to be solicited. By means of a screw, a fine steel point is made to project about one thirtieth part of an inch, or less, as may be found most convenient, beyond the polished surface of the ball, through a very small hole. This point is presented to the electrized body. If the electricity be plus no spark will be drawn, but it will pass to the point in silence, as usual; but, if the electricity be minus, the uninsulated ball will give dense and long sparks to the electrified body.

We are informed that the same gentleman, some time ago, explained to a respectable society in London, a new method for experimentally finding the quantity of terrestrial refraction, which is the principal impediment to the ac-

curate trigonometrical mensurations of the height of mountains. His method is trigonometrical, but we do not hear that he has yet communicated to the public any memoir on the subject.

The attention of the philosophical world is much excited by some experiments lately made by Dr. George Fordyce and Dr. Crawford. With a pair of scales capable of exhibiting the three thousandth part of a grain, the quantity of about two ounces of water in a glass vessel, hermetically sealed, was weighed. The water was then frozen, care being taken to make the surface of the glass perfectly clean. Its weight when frozen was one sixteenth of a grain more than when fluid. The temperature both of the ice and the water was constantly 32° , and therefore the condensation of vapour that might be imagined to take place on the glass must have been alike in both cases. Besides which, the experiment has been frequently repeated as well when the temperature of the room was below as when above 32° . And it is to be presumed that no condensation could take place when the air itself was colder than the glass vessel.

From these experiments it should seem either that the matter of heat is possessed of positive levity, or that it is only the privation of the matter of cold; or, lastly, if heat and cold be mere modifications, it appears that heat is a modification which not only counteracts and destroys the effects of the cohesive attraction, but even those of gravity.

P O E T R Y.

ODE TO METASTASIO.

From the Italian. By a poor MONK.

A RNO and Adria with delight
Confess the scenic lays,
That o'er each spectacle of night
Exalt the buskin's praise.

Through golden musick's powerful art
Love unresisted reigns,
When Metastasio thrills the heart
With soul-enchanting strains.

O, Metastasio! heavenly bard!
The drama's lord confess,
While taste shall claim a dear regard
In every gentle breast.

Sweet harmony! Italia's boast!
Thy poet's name revere,
Who calls from Heaven th' angelic host
Thy rapturous sounds to hear,
Rameau * with philosophic art
The tuneful note essays;
In vain—when all touch'd the heart
Withholds her purest praise.

Thou

* A French composer.

1785.

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Thou, Nature, never would'st preside
When he with fruitless care,
Has oft to thee his strains apply'd,
For, ah! thou were not there!

But thou wert present whilst inspir'd
With scenes, by Heav'n imprest,
Th' Olympiad all the genius fir'd
Of Pergolesi's* breast.

My lov'd Olympiad! oft in thee,
How oft, alas! renew'd,
The image of my heart I see;
This heart with woe subdu'd!

The sun when sunk beneath the hill,
Leaves me with thee to weep,
With thee he finds me weeping still,
When he forsakes the deep.

What tribute can be paid by me,
In humble life conceal'd?
Can I an equal praise to thee
(Great Nature's painter!) yield?

Thou shedst the nectar of delight
That all my soul inspires,
Thy muse, when she extends her flight,
Adds wing to my desires.

Can I to celebrate thy name
This hand untutor'd trust;
And like another Pigal + frame
For thee the breathing bust?

Here, on the left, by Arbia's side,
Arbia that gently leads
With murmur'd sound his slender tide
Along the Roman meads,

A grassy hillock rises fair,
Begirt with silent bowers,
A dwelling oft to shield from care
The poet's pensive hours.

Thus Horace in the Sabine grove
Attun'd his amorous lyre,
And sung, for Lalage, his love,
The queen of his desire.

The juniper and laurel here,
By Phœbus ever fam'd,
A verdant altar grace, which near
My pious hand has fram'd.

For every wondrous work of thine,
With endless glory crown'd,
A chosen garland see me twine
And hang the trophies round.

Where fair engrav'd the happy few
The pleas'd attention claim,
Regulus, Artaxerxes view,
Titus and Dido's name.

But where th' Olympiad holds a place
Upon the cedar's rind,
There thrice I Metatafio trace,
And there three garlands bind.

And thrice each day my votive lays
Th' ingenuous notes prolong,
A rustic priest that dares to raise
To thee the rustic song!

And thrice each day the classic shade
I deck with fragrant flowers;
Spare these, ye winds! they're sacred made
By him my soul adores!

What sweet delirium fires my brain!
O, no—his voice replies,
In oracles, whose welcome strain
Approves my sacrifice.

Who knows (though canker'd envy swell
With venom'd rage encreas'd)
But future times to all may tell
The altar and the priest!

O N L O V E.

ALL hail! thou tyrant Love, whose power
controls

The secret will and passions of our souls.

Love is a secret motion of the mind,
To certain objects, where it hopes to find
Both rest and satisfaction. Every breast
By love predominant is still possest,
That o'er our other passions hath a sway
And the beloved object we obey.

This Love, we perfect or imperfect find
As is the object which attracts our mind.
The heart, that's fix'd on objects vile and base,
Brings on itself dishonour and disgrace.
And he, whose heart is fix'd on things sublim'd
Thus may acquire an elevated mind.

Love raises in our minds an useful thought
Of that beloved object, which hath caught
Our very souls. This object then employs
Our secret thoughts; our peace it then destroys.
In dreams by night it then disturbs our sleep,
And from our thoughts by day we can't it keep.

A lover's mind is like a stormy sea
That's in perpetual motion; and we see
The foul is seiz'd by love, as is the blood
By agues; first a shiv'ring, then a flood
Of burning heat: so love will always show
Of fear and hope, perpetual ebb and flow.

In Love, the hero's courage we may view,
The woman's fears, the madman's folly too;
And at first sight, we equally may see
'Tis raging madness, then necessity.
It is now joy, then grief—now hopes, then fears,
And all that's serious, calm, and fierce appears.
'Tis Love inspires the eloquence of men,
And Love it is inspires the poet's pen.

Hope is the lover's refuge, and he'll find,
That one kind look will 'ease his tortur'd mind.
His down-cast heart ne'er knew a sound so sweet,
His heavy ears ne'er heard such concords meet.
Not all the sounds of martial music, join'd
In concert with the warbling birds and wind,
And murmur'd waters, that through vallies glide
With all the pow'rs of vocal charms beside,
Could in his soul such pleasing raptures move,
As when his dear Louisa said, "I love."
Soon as a soul is seiz'd by Love, 'twill know,
'Tis sweet, 'tis bitter, rapid 'tis, and slow,
Famine or time may well perform a cure,
But if not, and the flame you can't endure,
Go hang thyself—a remedy that's sure.
Great is its influence, boundless is its reign,
Nought can its actions check, or will restrain.

The

* An Italian composer.

+ A French sculptor.

The winged insects, and the reptile tribe,
The finny race that in the waters glide,
The shaggy beasts, and rangers of the air,
Can well its influence tell and pow'r declare.
The air, the sea, the earth, and flow'ry plain,
Extend its uncontrol'd and boundless reign,
In a defenceless and unarmed state
It braves the world, and rules both small and great.
The wife, the prudent, and the virtuous breast,
Th' imprudent and unwise it hath possest.
With all our arts we cannot shun the stroke,
We must submit unto its heavy yoke.
The nauseous draught of life we can't drink down
Unless this drop, this cordial drop is thrown
Into our cup: and then we know
It smooths the edge of all our smarting woe.

Maidstone, March 9, 1785.

*An ADDRESS to Miss WINNE, of
Plymouth.*

IN the gay room, where in assemblage bright
The social Graces and the Loves unite,
Such as once fill'd Jove's court, as poets sung,
With sounds of joy when high Olympus rung,
Where Juno with a mien majestic charm'd,
And smiling Venus every bosom warm'd;
While Cupid sported, Phœbus tun'd the lyre,
And all the Muses join'd the sprightly choir;
See where Winne comes, fair as the Cyprian
queen

On Ida's lofty hill, by Paris seen,
When on her form the shepherd fix'd his eyes,
And she all-conquering gain'd the golden prize.
Three goddesses did then in war engage,
Dire in the war of beauty was their rage;
More generous females grace our modern days,
They only here contend who most shall praise.
The fairest in the throng, where all are fair,
Freely thy worth, resplendent nymph, declare
Thy elegance of form, and charm of face,
Thy manners dignified, and artless grace,
When in the courtly minuet you advance,
Or form the movements of the swifter dance,
Light as young fancy, or the sun's gay beam
That gilds the mountain's top, or dances on the
stream.

Thro' all the maze of life, where'er you bend
Your steps, may harmony and joy attend;
And when pale Death shall—start not, gentle
maid,

For Death will come, and that fine form will fade,
Late be the hour—and gentle be the dart—
And may thy guardian genius ne'er depart;
Spreading his silver wings, divinely bright,
May he then bear thee thro' the fields of light;
On golden clouds thou shalt immortal rise,
And reign for ever blooming in the skies.

AN OLD CORRESPONDENT.

L I N E S

By Mrs. YEARSLEY, the celebrated Milk-Woman of CLIFTON.

To STELLA, on a visit to Mrs. MONTAGUE.

UNEQUAL, lost to th' aspiring claim,
I neither own nor ask the immortal name
Of friend—oh, no, its ardours are too great,
My soul too narrow, and too low my state;

Stella soar on (to nobler objects true)
Pour out your soul with your lov'd *Montague*.
But, ah! should either have a thought to spare,
Slight, trivial, neither worth a smile nor tear,
Let it be mine—when glowing raptures rise,
And each aspiring seeks her native skies,
When fancy wakes the soul to extacy,
And the wrapt mind is fir'd with Deity,
Quick let me from the hallow'd spot retire,
When sacred genius lights his awful fire:
Yet shall your bounty warm my feeble state,
With cheerful lustre gild my gloomy fate;
In that lone hour, when angry storms descend,
And the chill'd soul forgets the name of friend,
When all her sprightly fires neglected lie,
And gloomy objects fill the mental eye;
When hoary Winter strides the northern blast,
And Flora's beauties at his feet are cast;
Earth by the grisly tyrant desert made,
The feather'd warblers quit the feather'd shade;
Quit those dear scenes where life and love began,
And cheerless seek the savage haunt of man;
Then shall your image soothe my pensive soul,
When slow-pac'd moments big with mischief roll;
Then shall I, eager, wait your wish'd return
From y bright fair who decks a *Shakspere*'s urn
With deathless glories, ev'ry ardent pray'r
Which gratitude can waft from souls sincere,
Each glad return to gen'rous beauty due,
Shall warm my heart for thee and *Montague*.
Blest pair!—O had not souls like yours been
given,

The dubious Atheist well might doubt a heaven:
Convinc'd, he now deserts his gloomy stand,
Owns *mind* the greatest proof of a creating hand.
Galen's conversion, by externals wrought,
Dropp'd far beneath sublimity of thought;
But could he those exalted virtues find,
Which form and actuate your gentle mind,
How would the Heathen, struck with bleft surprise,
Atoms deny, while *spirit* fill'd his eyes!

**THE MISLETOE AND THE PASSION-
FLOWER.**

A FABLE. By Mr. LANGHORN.

In this dim cave a druid sleeps,
Where stops the passing gale to moan;
The rock he hallow'd o'er him weeps,
And cold drops wear the fretted stone.

In this dim cave, of different creed,
An hermit's holy ashes rest:
The school-boy finds the frequent bead,
Which many a formal matin blest.

That truant-time full well I know,
When here I brought, in stolen hour,
The druid's magic mistletoe,
The holy hermit's passion-flower.

The offerings on the mystic stone
Pensive I laid, in thought profound,
When from the cave a deepening groan
Issued, and froze me to the ground.

I hear it still—Dost thou not hear?
Does not thy haunted fancy start?
The sound still vibrates thro' mine ear—
The horror rushes on my heart,

Unlike

Unlike to living sounds it came,
Unmix'd, unmelodiz'd with breath;
But, grinding thro' some scrannel frame,
Creak'd from the bony lungs of death.

I hear it still—"Depart," it cries;
"No tribute bear to shades unblest:
Know, here a bloody druid lies,
Who was not nurs'd at Nature's breast.

Associate he with daemons dire,
O'er human victims held the knife,
And pleas'd to see the babe expire,
Smil'd grimly o'er its quivering life.

Behold his crimson-streaming hand
Erect!—his dark, fix'd, murderous eye!"
In the dim cave I saw him stand;
And my heart died—I felt it die.

I see him still—Dost thou not see
The haggard eye-ball's hollow glare?
And gleams of wild ferocity
Dart thro' the fable shade of hair?

What meagre form behind him moves,
With eye that rues th' invading day;
And wrinkled aspect wan, that proves
The mind to pale remorse a prey?

What wretched—Hark!—the voice replies,
"Boy, bear these idle honours hence!
For here a guilty hermit lies,
Untrue to nature, virtue, sense.

Tho' Nature lent him powers to aid
The moral cause, the mutual weal:
Those powers he funk in this dim shade,
The desperate suicide of zeal.

Go, teach the drone of saintly haunts,
Whose cell's the sepulchre of time;
Tho' many a holy hymn he chaunts,
His life is one continued crime.

And bear from hence the plant, the flower;
No symbols those of systems vain!
They have the duties of their hour—
Some bird, some insect to sustain."

ODE TO MEMORY.

WHERE dost thou, Memory, thy seat
maintain?

In what recesses of the brain?
What corner of the mind?
Amazing faculty! In vain we try,
In vain our mental pow'rs apply,
Thy wond'rous source to find.

By thee we call past scenes again to view,
By thee they're acted o'er anew
Within th' attentive mind:
There, in progressive order rang'd, we see
The traces strong, which Memory
Of facts has left behind.

Without the aid which we receive from thee
How short-liv'd would the pleasures be
Which moist our fancy fire!

Like bubbles floating on the silver stream,
As transient as a midnight dream,
As suddenly expire.

Thy faithful records long impress'd retain
The sense of pleasure, and of pain,
LOND. MAG. April 1785.

When pain or pleasure's o'er:
To thee how many comforts do we owe!
Without thee love and friendship too
Would give delight no more!

When ev'ry present object fails to please,
We recollect the hours of ease,
When pleasure did abound:
Thus we can trace the beauties of the spring,
And to our minds its fragrance bring,
When winter reigns around.

By thee alone all knowledge we attain;
Without thee our pretence is vain
To learning's sacred lore:
Thy aid invigorates the poet's lay,
Without thy strong retentive ray
Vain his attempts to soar.

In vain fair science spreads her ample store,
Turning instructive volumes o'er,
With *modern* learning fraught:
Though all *antiquity* holds forth to view
Be represented to us too,
It will avail us nought.

E'en Tully's eloquence in vain would charm,
Or Plato's heavenly wisdom warm,
If traces none remain
Of what we read, or what attentive hear:
The mind a desert must appear
Where Mem'ry does not reign.

O, Pow'r Supreme! from whom alone mankind
Derive this faculty of mind,
Vouchsafe to hear my prayer:
All bad impressions from my breast remove,
Nor aught but what thou dost approve
Be ever treasur'd there.

CLASSICUS.

Teddington, Feb. 17, 1785.

VERSES

Written the 30th of March, 1784.

LO! Winter still obscures the cheerful day,
And with his ruffian blasts affrights the
spring!
No sprightly notes are warbled from the spray;
Scarce e'en the red-breast now attempts to sing!

Untimely snows again deform the fields,
Nature again a wintry garment wears,
To cold and storm the lovely season yields,
Nor one bold plant its tender stalk upears!

With anxious look we cast our eyes around,
No leaves, no flow'rs, no blossoms we descry:
No springing grass now carpets o'er the ground,
But dead the vegetable kingdoms lie!

Yet still beyond these gloomy prospects we,
Led on by hope, that soother of the mind,
Reviving Nature soon expect to see,
And all her vernal charms once more to find.

So when the clouds of black misfortune rise,
And unforeseen distress the breast assails,
Should we look forward to serener skies,
And cherish hope of more propitious gales.

CLASSICUS.

Teddington, March 12, 1785.

M M

WINTER.

WINTER. AN ODE.

By the late Dr. SAMUEL JOHNSON.

NO more the morn, with tepid rays,
Unfolds the flow'r of various hue;
Noon spreads no more the genial blaze,
Nor gentle eve distills the dew.
The ling'ring hours prolong the night,
Usurping darkness shares the day;
Her mists restrain the force of light,
And Phœbus holds a doubtful sway.
By gloomy twilight half reveal'd
With sighs we view the hoary hill,
The leafless wood, the naked field,
The snow-topp'd cot, the frozen rill.
No music warbles through the grove,
No vivid colours paint the plain;
No more with devious steps I rove
Through verdant paths now sought in vain.
Aloud the driving tempest roars;
Congeal'd, impetuous showers descend;
Haste!—close the window—bar the doors;
Fate leaves me Stella and a friend.
In Nature's aid, let art supply
With light and heat my little sphere:
Rouse, rouse the fire, pile it high;
Light up a constellation here.
Let music sound the voice of joy,
Or mirth repeat the jocund tale;
Let Love his wanton wiles employ,
And o'er the season wine prevail.
Yet Time his dreary winter brings,
When mirth's gay tale shall please no more;
Nor music charm, though Stella sings;
Nor love, nor wine, the spring restore.
Catch then, O catch, the transient hour:
Improve each moment as it flies:
Life's a short summer—man a flower!
He dies!—Alas! how soon he dies!

EPITAPH on Dr. JOHNSON.

YE vain, licentious wits! your distance keep,
And, if you never wept, now learn to weep.
Learning hath lost her prop in Johnson's end,
Virtue her boast, and Piety her friend.
Presume not to this shrine too near to draw,
Or, if you dare approach, approach with awe.
The scythe of time shall canker o'er with rust,
Lose its keen edge, and splinter into dust;
Himself, too, sicken, and in anguish pine,
Ere he shall gain a harvest so divine.
But tho' thy form be snatch'd from mortal eye,
Johnson! thy spotless fame shall never die.
Clos'd as thou art in Death's eternal cave,
Thy work shall live, and blossom from the grave.

W. WOTY.

Loughborough, Leicestershire,
Dec. 20, 1784.

On the Death of Dr. SAMUEL JOHNSON.

FATE aim'd y blow—"the cruel arrow sped;"
And Johnson now lies number'd with y dead.
Shall I not drop one melancholy tear
On his lamented, his much-honour'd bier?
His merit claims the elegiac lay;
That tribute here the willing muses pay.
Reign'd he fell—his pure, his classick page
Will furnish precepts for a future age;
Instructive lessons to the human heart
His Moral Essays ever must impart.

Improv'd, O great philologer, by thee
The English language to posterity
Shall attic phrase and well turn'd periods show,
With all the graces that from taste can flow.
Thy nervous style, so beautifully strong,
Shall be the standard of thy native tongue.
But though thy learning justly rais'd thy name,
And shall hereafter still increase thy fame,
Yet did thy life thy lit'rature excell,
And added force to what was taught so well.
Thy writings recommend religion's cause,
And thy whole life was govern'd by her laws.

CLASSICUS.

Teddington, Jan. 13, 1785.

SONG.

Written by GEORGE COLMAN, Esq.

IF life is a bubble, and breaks with a glat,
You must toss off your wine, if you'd wish it
to last;
For the bubble may well be destroyed with a puff,
If 'tis not kept floating in liquor enough.
If life is a flower, as philosophers say,
'Tis a very good thing understood the right way;
For if life is a flower, any blockhead can tell,
If you'd have it look fresh, you must moisten it
well.

This life is no more than a journey 'tis said,
Where y roads for most part are confoundedly bad;
So let wine be our spurs, and all trav'lers will own,
That whatever the roads, we jog merrily on.
This world to a theatre likend has been,
Where each man around has a part in the scene;
'Tis our part to be drunk, and 'tis matter of fact,
That y more you all drink, boys, y better you act.
This life is a dream, in which many will weep,
Who have strange silly fancies, and cry in their
sleep; [be said,
But of us, when we wake from our dream, 'twill
That the tears of y tankard were all that we shed.

EPITAPH on a favourite HORSE.

THOUGH long untrodden on poetic ground,
On me no Pegasean dust is found;
Your kind assistance, gentle Muses, lend,
To pay this tribute to a parted friend:
Let no rough trotting lines my theme disgrace,
But smoothly canter in harmonious pace.
Sorrell deceas'd demands my grateful lay,
The willing Sorrell to his lateit day.
Upright he jogg'd thro' life's mysterious round,
In temper gentle, constitution sound.
Stranger to vice, no guilty start he knew,
Excell'd by none, and equal'd but by few.
Whether the full portmanteau to sustain,
Or proudly gallop o'er th' extended plain;
To smoke the foremost in the eager chace,
Or shine unrival'd in the unequal race;
Sorrell in each two grateful lords obey'd,
Who lov'd him living, and lament him dead.

MILES.

EXTEMPORE,
Written in a blank leaf of the Beauties of Johnson.

TWO sets of beauties, strew'd as thick,
Might these thy pilferers find;
First, let them publish those they pick,
—Then, those they leave behind.

M. Z.
MATHEMATICS.

MATHEMATICS.

ANSWERS TO MATHEMATICAL QUESTIONS.

80. QUESTION (I. Dec.) not answered.

81. QUESTION (II. Dec.) answered by the proposer.

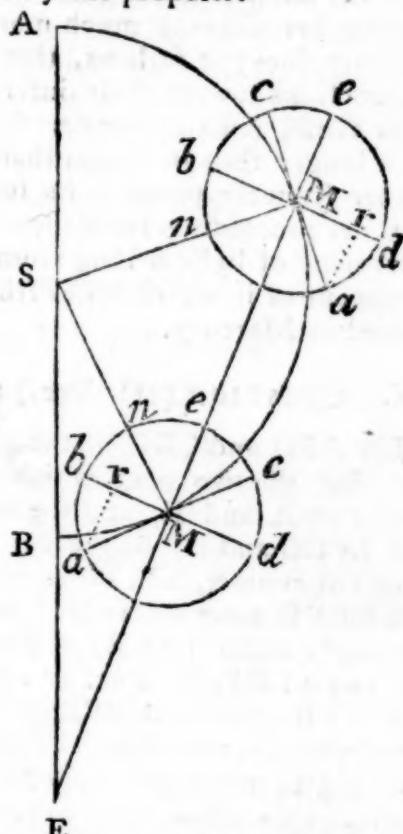
LET S represent the sun, E the earth, and M the planet in its orbit AMMB. Draw SM and EM, and produce the latter to e; then I say that the part of the enlightened disk of an inferior planet which can be seen from the earth will always be as the versed sine of the angle SMe; that is, as the versed sine of the supplement of the angle contained between lines drawn from the planet to the earth and sun. For ac being drawn perpendicular to SM, bd to EM, and ar to bd; it is manifest that abc will be the enlightened disk of the planet, ab that portion of it which is visible to a spectator on the earth at E; and br, which is the versed sine of the arc ba, will be the apparent breadth of it. But br is the versed sine of the arch ba, which is equal to ne, the measure of the exterior angle SMe, of the triangle SME, because aMS, and bMe are both right angles. Now it is demonstrated by the writers on mensuration, that the areas of such *lunulae* as form the visible parts of the enlightened disks of the planets are as the rectangles contained by the greatest breadths of them and the diameters of the spheres on which they are formed: but, in this case, the diameter of the planet being a constant quantity, the areas will be as their greatest apparent breadth; that is, as the versed sines br of the angle SMe, which, according to

trigonometrical writers is equal to $\frac{ME+MS+SE \times ME+MS-SE}{2MS \times ME}$. Putting, there-

fore, $a=SE$, $b=SM$, and $x=EM$, $\frac{x+b+a \times x+b-a}{2bx}$ will be as the illuminated part of the planet seen from the earth. But the intensity of the light of any luminous object is directly as the illuminated surface, and inversely as the square of its distance from the spectator; consequently, $\frac{x+b+a \times x+b-a}{2bx} \times \frac{1}{x^2}$ is constantly as the intensity of the light of mercury, which will be greatest when $-2bx^4x - 8b^2x^3x + 6a^2bx^2x - 6b^3a^2x$, its fluxion, is equal 0; that is, when $x^2 + 4bx = 3a^2 - 3b^2$, and then $x = \sqrt{3a^2 + b^2 - 2b}$.

Let a be expounded by 1; then, according to Dr. Halley's Tables, b will be 3871; and x , or EM, = 1,00058. Hence, the angle ESM, or the difference between the heliocentric longitude of the planet and that of the earth will be $78^\circ 55' 41''$; whereas the same angle, at the time of the planet's greatest elongation from the sun is only $67^\circ 13\frac{1}{2}'$; Mercury is therefore brightest between the time of its greatest elongation and that of its superior conjunction; and its elongation at that time, or the angle SEM, is $22^\circ 18' 47''$.

If, instead of Mercury, we would inquire into the situation of the planet Venus, when its splendour is greatest, the very same equation will resolve the problem: for retaining a , the mean distance of the earth from the sun, = 1, that of Venus, by Halley's Table, will be .72333, for the value of b ; from whence we shall have EM (x) in this case, = .43036, and the angle ESM = $22^\circ 20' 57''$; whereas that angle, at the time of the planet's greatest elongation is $43^\circ 40'$. Consequently, Venus is brightest between the time of her greatest elongation, and her *inferior conjunction*,



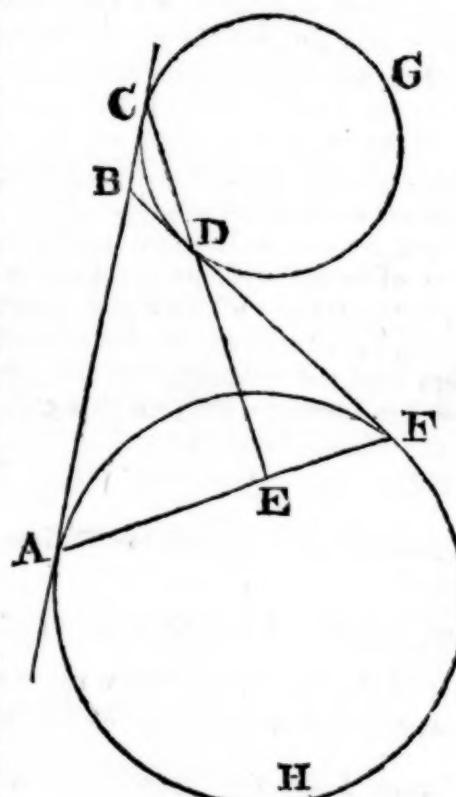
junction, contrary to what happens to the planet Mercury; agreeable to the observation of your ingenious correspondent *β Algol*, drawn, as it should seem, wholly from his observations.

It is by no means difficult to account for this phenomenon: for the variation of the light in each planet being as the apparent breadth of the disk of the planet directly, and as the square of its distance from the earth inversely; and the variation arising from the former cause being nearly alike in both planets, while that arising from the latter is much greater in Venus than it is in Mercury, on account of Venus altering her distance much more, and approaching much nearer to the earth than Mercury does; it follows, that when the planets are moving from their superior conjunctions toward their inferior ones, the increase of light, on account of the latter cause, remains greater than the decrease of light, arising from the former, for a longer time in Venus than it does in Mercury; that is, until the planet gets farther from the place of its superior conjunction. And, on the contrary, when they are proceeding from their inferior conjunction towards the superior one, the decrement of light arising from the increased distance becomes sooner equal to the increment of it which arises from an increase of the enlightened disk in Venus than it does in Mercury.

82. QUESTION (III. Dec.) answered by Mr. WILLIAM KAYE, of Wakefield.

Let AFH and CDG be the given circles, AC and DF the two lines which touch both, the former in A and H, and the latter in C and D; and let CD and AF be the two lines joining the points of contact, and meeting each other in E; also let ED meet AC in B. Because $BD = BC$, the angle BCD (ACE) = the angle BDC , = the angle EDF , by Euc. I. 15. Also, because $AB = FB$, the angle BFE = the angle BAE . Consequently, the triangles ACE , FDE , having two angles in the one respectively equal to two angles in the other, each to each, these triangles are similar, and have the sides about the equal angles proportional; that is, $CE : AE :: DE : FE$; and alternately, $CE : DE :: AE : FE$.

Q. E. D.



83. QUESTION (I. Jan.) answered by the proposer, SENEX.

Mr. Emerson (to whose characters I refer) makes the gravity at P the same as at A; which, though the difference is very small, occasions a very considerable error in the conclusion. His value of the perturbing force of S, on a particle at D, is also erroneous

(being $\frac{2f\dot{y}}{3}$ instead of $f\dot{y}$);

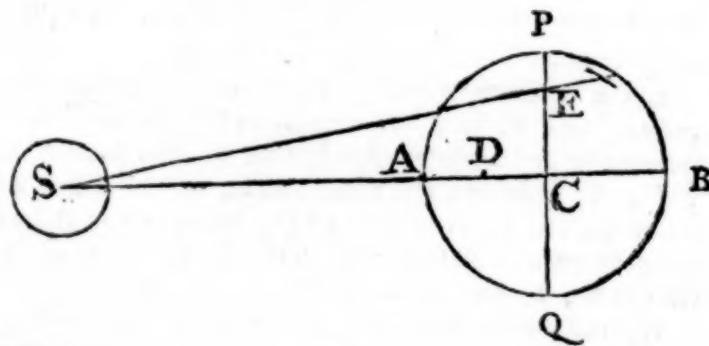
and he has omitted the force of S on a particle at E, in the direction EC.

Let a^2 be to b^2 as 1 to $1+B$: then will $a-b$ be = $\frac{-a^2B}{a+b} = \frac{-aB}{2}$ nearly;

and the gravity at A will

be to the gravity at P as b to $1 + \frac{2B}{5} \times a$. Therefore, instead of his equation

$\frac{gy\dot{y}}{a} - f\dot{y}\dot{y} = \frac{gx\dot{x}}{b}$, we have the whole fluents of $\frac{gy\dot{y}}{a} - \frac{2}{3}f\dot{y}\dot{y}$ = the whole fluents of



$\frac{1+\frac{2}{3}B \times agxx}{b^2} + \frac{4R\pi^2xx}{p^2\sqrt{R^2+x^2}}$: whence, by taking the fluents, we have $ga-fa^2$
 $= 1+\frac{2}{3}B \times ag$; and consequently B being by that equation $= -\frac{5af}{2g}$, $a-b$ (instead of being $= \frac{a^2f}{g}$) will be $= \frac{5a^2f}{4g}$. Which agrees with Mr. Maclaurin's computation, and with my correction of Mr. Simpson's in the *Lond. Mag.* for January last: a being $= AC$; $b=CP$; $R=CS$; p = the periodical time of the earth round the sun in seconds; $g=32.2$ feet; $\pi=3.1416$; $f=\frac{12\pi^2}{p^2}$; $x=CE$; $y=CD$; and the *whole fluent* of $\frac{4R\pi^2xx}{p^2\sqrt{R^2+x^2}} = \frac{2\pi^2b^2}{p^2} = \frac{fb^2}{6} = \frac{fa^2}{6}$ nearly.

MATHEMATICAL QUESTIONS.

95. QUESTION I. by TASSO, of Bristol.

Given the sum of the sides of a plane triangle, the difference of the segments of the base made by the perpendicular, and the line bisecting the vertical angle and terminating in the base to determine the triangle?

96. QUESTION II. by the same Gentleman.

Given the diameter of a circle circumscribing a plane triangle, the difference of the angles at the base of the triangle, and the sum of the base and perpendicular to determine the triangle?

97. QUESTION III. by .

Suppose a plane to touch the spheroidal figure of the earth, in a given latitude; it is required to find the angle contained between this plane and a tangent drawn to any given point of the earth?

* * * If we have mistaken this gentleman's meaning in the alteration we have made in his mode of expressing his question, we apprehend all our correspondents would have been liable to have done the same, if we had not altered it: they cannot mistake it now.

 The answers to these questions may be directed (post-paid) to Mr. Baldwin, in Paternoster-row, London.

T H E M I S C E L L A N Y.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE LONDON MAGAZINE.

SIR,

YOU have had of late so much on the subject of *air* in your Magazine, that for a new writer to start on the same grounds, would appear impertinent indeed, and I should be very cautious to avoid the ugly imputation, if I did not think that much still remains to be said on the subject.

Inflammable air, we find, has power, not only to carry us beyond the clouds, but to bring our thousands and ten thousands to the plains; to endanger beauty, money, and watches;

nay, life itself; to make the poor wealthy, and send the rich man empty away, to raise the brightest eyes to Heaven, convert infidelity into admiration, to provoke gardeners, destroy turneps, and encourage hackney-coachmen. All this and much more may be affected by *inflammable air*.—But is this the only kind of *air* which the world is interested in? No, Sir, there are many other kinds which no less merit their attention, and ought to be more attended to, and better understood,

stood, inasmuch as they occur often.

There is a *musical air*. The powers of this are far greater than those of *inflammable air*. *Inflammable air* raises us to the clouds; but *musical air* raises us to Heaven itself—*inflammable air* raises us above our fellow creatures, but *musical air* raises us above ourselves—tames the roughnesses of our natures, plants softness and gentleness in our breasts, and animates us with a spark of that heavenly fire which forms the incense of the eternal *Hallelujah*.

For my own part, indeed Mr. Editor, I am a poor weak woman, and dare not trust myself with music beyond *God save the King*, *Corn Riggs*, or the 100th psalm tune; particularly in the month of May, when *musical air* produces effects greatly more wonderful, though not quite so visible, as the motions of an air-balloon.

One very singular effect of this *air* was in *Orpheus* recovering his *wife* from *hell*; a very unfashionable experiment, and which in our days, does not bid fair to become general. Rather than so, our modern *Orpheus*'s would convert their harpsichords into *coffins*, to carry their wives there.

The effects of the *musical air* are sometimes very pernicious. It is very apt to take away the breath, and we hear ladies at the Opera, who go up in this *air*, telling us *they expire*: to be sure, Sir, they die martyrs in a good cause, don't they? In former days, people were martyrs for *religion's* sake, not the sake of a *fiddle*; and died in obedience to their *conscience*, and

not to the *Caro mio ben* of *Paccietti*.

But I find it is the fashion to *expire* at an opera, and therefore the ladies must comply, although heaven knows, Sir, that this *expiration* at an opera, is not justified by any of the rules of *inspiration*.

Next, Sir, there is an *haughty air*. This is an *air* which fills the heads of the ignorant, the upstart, rich, and the powerful. A balloon filled with this *air* is the most dangerous of any; more people have been known to *fall* from them, than from any other species of balloon; and this frequently, because they happened to *lose the materials* of which the *air* was composed.

The *affable air* is composed of ingredients quite the reverse of the former; a balloon made of this, lasts one's life-time, and always preserves its original beauty, unimpaired by time. This *air* has the singular effect of giving beauty to the most ordinary countenance, and casting the most beautiful colouring over the failings of our nature. There is a perfume in it so delicate, that all the world are charmed with it. Savage rudeness, however, cannot live in it; but the wise, the good, and indeed the bulk of mankind, find that it has the most beneficial effects.

There are many other species of *air*, which I could give you an account of, but, as I have taken up a good deal of your time, and may perhaps be thought to be giving myself *too many airs*, I conclude, and am, Sir, your's,

A WEARER OF PETTICOATS.
Air-street, Mar. 19, 1785.

FOR THE LONDON MAGAZINE. ON CARD-PLAYING.

“A fatal passion for cards and dice seems to have overturned, not only the ambition of excellence, but the desire of pleasure.”

RAMBLER.

MR. EDITOR,

THE employment of time is, of all others, a matter of the greatest importance. On this depends our happiness. This raises us to the wisest and the best, or sinks us down to the lowest and most contemptible of our species. Yet such is the folly and per-

verseness of mankind, that, instead of passing those hours which may be spared from the duties of their respective situations in Life, in the reciprocations of friendship, in liberal and manly, or serious and virtuous conversation, they too often waste them in the most frivolous,

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volous, not to say, pernicious, amusements.

I shall confine myself to one, whose influence is as malignant as its practice is universal; and, to set this in the strongest point of view, I shall adopt the manner of *La Bruyere*. I frequently observe with concern and solicitude four beings of erect form and amiable countenance, endowed with the power of reason, able to clothe their thoughts in language, and to arrange them in such a manner as to improve others, as well as amuse themselves, sit for several hours together, in almost total silence, placing a set of painted papers in different positions and combinations, with the appearance of the greatest attention to this childish employment. This is commonly called *Card-playing*.

Other amusements tire by their repetition, or disgust by their sameness; but this enchanting diversion is always agreeable. The card-player sits down with a cool deliberation and unabated ardour, which might be laudably excited on more important objects. He sits down to waste those precious moments which can never be recalled, even though he be commonly a loser on such occasions: and when a man's affairs are totally deranged, and in utter confusion, I am afraid the reflection may too often be very justly applyed to such person which the King of Prussia once made on one of his generals, when he found fault with his regiment at a review, “*Et ce n'est pas surprenant, vous jouez tant aux cartes.*” This wise monarch rightly concluded, that it was no wonder a man, whose attention was so much employed on *cards*, should neglect things of greater moment.

It is difficult to account for such excess of folly, but by attributing this almost universal practice to the prevalence of fashion, that most cruel and capricious of tyrants. The truth is, few men have strength of mind sufficient to oppose its edicts, because they are supported by such numerous con-

formists; but are sooner drawn aside from what is right by the force of example than allured to it by the strongest arguments, and the most pathetick eloquence. The laugh of the world too is what they cannot endure: to avoid it they comply with customs they disapprove, though it be sometimes to their own ruin.

A modern writer has very judiciously remarked—“ the dismal effects which the continued practice of gaming has sometimes been observed to produce in the dispositions of the mind, and the most essential parts of the character, destroying every idea of economy, engrossing the whole time, undermining the best principles, perverting the qualities of the heart, rendering men callous to the ruin of acquaintances, and partaking with a savage insensibility in the spoils of their unwary friends.” What he has said upon gaming in general will hold good in a certain degree as to the smalllest tendency towards that pernicious custom, which must ever be considered as inimical to the benevolent affections of the human heart.

This fashionable amusement levels all distinctions, and bids fair to eradicate from among those who aim at politeness all knowledge but of the different games, and to leave them without a wish but for lucky hands.

I will close my reflections with only one more remark. People who constantly play at cards have their thoughts so entirely engrossed by this favourite amusement, that, when the cards are not actually in their hands, they are perpetually talking over the turns and incidents of the game (their ideas being confined to that subject) to the great disgust of others, and the no small injury of themselves; for who can expect, or suppose, that a man can pay any attention to his more serious concerns, or perform with propriety the common duties of life, whose mind is thus at all times engaged on such contemptible objects?

Z.

REFLECTION.

THE character of the King of Prussia, in many of the most remarkable

able strokes of it, strongly resembles that of Philip of Macedon.

FOR

FOR THE LONDON MAGAZINE.
MAXIMS OF CHARITY, WITH ANECDOTES OF THE AUTHOR,
MR. PETER STERRY.

(Continued from our last, page 174.)

I Have always a most tender compassion for, and most sensible sympathy with, all mankind, even amidst their greatest deformities and defilements, as brethren allied to me by a double consanguinity.

All nations that dwell upon the face of the earth God hath made of one and the same blood; and by one and the same blood all nations have been redeemed. The Lord Jesus gave himself a ransom for all to be testified (*εν καρποις ιδιοις*) in *the proper times*. Each person which hath his part in this ransom hath his own proper time for its discovery in him. Thine may be sooner. This person also, now most of all lost in the depth of all evils, may have his proper time yet to come for the taking off the disguise that veils the manifestation of the glory of the Son of God in him. But as his time comes later so may it come with a fuller glory.

* * * * *

Forgiving one another freely for Christ's sake, is the exhortation of St. Paul.—Read his name in every part and point of the earth: the darkest, the lowest, the least; and forgive the spots that shade the lustre of any object of creation for the sake of that holy name that is engraven on it.

Receive one another into the glory of God, is the rule of St. Paul. Divines distinguish between the person together with the *nature* of the devil and the *evil*. The person—the nature springs forth from God and so is good:—hath a divinity and glory in it:—a divine root—a divine image. It subsists in its original, and is maintained by a continual emanation from the bosom of the Supreme Glory. Thus thou art to receive every person, even though clouded with the greatest evils as he is the work of Nature and of God:—thy neighbour, thy brother, and friend.

—No evil *as* evil is the nature or choice of any being; but its misfor-

tune—its disease. Good is the only object of the will. As the needle touched by the loadstone is governed in its motions and its rest by the Pole; so is the will moved and attracted by that alone which affects it with a sense of good.

St. Paul says, “*Sin deceived me and then slew me.*” No person is willingly deceived in his apprehensions of truth, or disappointed in his expectations of good. Every evil is a degree of death. When it appeareth *like itself* all things fly from it as from death. But as Cupid in the form of the young and beautiful Ascanius, by treacherous embraces breathed a fatal poison into the veins of the Carthaginian Queen; so doth sin by the deep and mysterious enchantments of the prince of darkness change itself into the most alluring resemblance of the heavenly Image, composed of truth and goodness meeting in one immortal form. Thus it insinuates itself into the eyes and hearts of God's creatures; fills them with false pleasures, and enflames them with a false love. Yet *still* in the midst of these enchantments—yea, under the power of darkness and death itself, as the Athenians had an altar inscribed “*to the unknown God!*” surrounded with altars prostituted to the service of false divinities; so the understanding and will according to the proper quality of their natures exist in *every* spirit, as altars in a temple, burning with their own sacred fire and aspiring to the highest heaven, through all the clouds of darkness that obscure and oppress them.

If any person then be unhappily fallen into any evil, “*let those who are spiritual restore such a one in the spirit of meekness.*” Apply reproofs to evil persons in the proper season, as a brother would administer an antidote to a brother who by mistake had been surprised, and had drank in poison:—or

as one hand would apply a healing medicine to the other that had suffered a wound.

If thou art an angel and hast to do with a devil, use no reviling language: for the highest of angels is distinguished with a character of honour for " bringing no railing accusation" against Satan himself. Preserve thyself from that bitter zeal on which St. James sets so odious a mark—branding it with the fire of hell.—Let thy zeal be like the lightning from heaven which by its pure yet piercing qualities melts the sword, but harms not the scabbard. The zeal of some may be compared to the locusts of the bottomless pit described in the Revelations, which had faces like men; their hair soft and delicate as women's; their crowns were those of angels:—but below they were serpents, and " they had venomous stings in their tails."—Let not thy zeal be like a *culinary* fire—black, footy, and devouring; but like the fire from the *golden altar* mingled with incense; that carries up what it feeds on as a sacrifice to heaven.

I frequently reason thus with myself—" If I be lifted up to heaven by various excellencies, together with Co-razin and Bethsaida, from whence I look down upon another far beneath me, lying like Sodom and Gomorrah in a loathed deep of darkness, pollution, and disgrace, let me check the swellings of vanity, and repress the haughtiness of triumph by reflecting, that what lies so far beneath me in the abhorred plain may have a better ground of excellence at the bottom than myself. Its principle hidden deeply within itself may be superior to mine: and had the seed of wisdom, love, and virtue, which hath been sown in me, been sown with the like advantage there, it would have far excelled me in its fruits. Yea, let me indulge the generous thought, that it may not only have a better *ground*, but a divine *seed* hidden deeply within that ground, beneath all its rugged and unpromising appearances; beneath all the coldness and inactivity of its winter-season, which may vegetate in its *proper* spring, and flourish as the garden of

LOND. MAG. April 1785.

God.—Thus let me think, and let these thoughts instruct me to love every other person removed to the greatest distance from me, yea, *cast down to the greatest depth beneath me*, as my neighbour, my brother, and myself.

This love in the latitude in which I have recommended it contains all that is good in man, and all that is acceptable to God. " If (the Apostle says) I give all my goods to feed the poor, and my body to be burnt, and have not charity, I am nothing?"—Is there (a person whose views of charity are contracted by the vulgar acceptation of the word may ask) is there any charity superior to that of giving all our goods to feed the poor?—Is there any love to God (the zealot will ask) more divine than his who gives his body to be burnt for his cause?—Yes, there is a charity that transcends them both—a charity which must be the spring and principle of both, or they will be esteemed as nothing.—This is the charity which I am speaking of, which " vaunteth not itself" above *any* of the works of God, but preserves the unity of the spirit—the design and end of the eternal Workman, in the bond of peace. This is that " charity which behaveth not itself unseemly, and seeketh not her own:"—breaketh not in on the harmony of the whole, nor divides itself from the whole by a particular self-love. In the universal melody of the divine wisdom, and in the general establishment of creation, it considereth itself as a part; and all parts as related to itself, having one perfection and one joy together.

This is the charity which beareth—or as it may be better rendered in order to make it distinct from the word *suffer*, which occurs in the same verse—covereth or comprehendeth all things. It throws a lustre, a pleasing comeliness, on every object, and comprehends every being in its good wishes. Nothing is abandoned by it: for " it believeth all things and hopeth all things." Like its divine principle in the godhead it hath unrestrained complacency in all his works, and pronounces them good. It believeth all things to be the tabernacles of the Divinity, like that in the

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wilderness,

wilderness, which though moving through the barren desert—a land of graves—of fiery serpents and beasts of prey, yet answer to their original pattern on the Mount:—and though covered with a coarse tent that hath felt the fury of the elements, yet within are filled with the presence of Jehovah himself—the glory of him who is all in all.

* * * * *

I have a request to make to my reader for his sake and my own, *i. e.* to peruse this discourse with the same spirit with which it was written. Charity “thinketh no evil.”—It would think all the good of every subject, either person or thing, which it is capable of. Let no dark corner be left in his bosom where suspicions, prejudices, and animosities, may lurk like some odious and envenomed animals within the hollows of a building, to creep forth unseen, and give a deadly wound to the unsuspecting.

* * * * *

If the rich man in hell, next to the quenching those flames which burnt upon himself, made this his request to heaven, “that his brethren might be preferred from coming to that place of torment;” how much more, in proportion to the superiority of their benevolence, do the blessed inhabitants of the heavenly world, inspired with the

ardours of a god-like charity, long to prevent the misery of others, and to bring them to the participation of their incorruptible joys? Let charity instruct thee, gentle reader, to believe, that the obscure and unnoticed author, according to the uncontroled freedom of that love, which gilds without distinction the cottage and the palace, may have caught some sacred beam that hath led him so near to the borders of divine truth as to discover something of heaven and of the spirit of its happy residents. Let the same meek and amiable instructor raise within thy breast this candid sentiment, that as the silver-feathered doves flying before Æneas, guided him to a tree laden with golden boughs in the midst of a pathless, obscure wood, so this discourse aiming at a resemblance of those beautiful and lovely birds, may, though it flies on a weak and trembling wing, be sent forth, to allure and guide thee to “the tree of life which grows in the midst of the Paradise of God;” and as thou passest on thou mayest find even in the obscurities and tumults of these earthly shades something of heaven opening on thy mind—and still opening farther and farther, and endlessly raising itself to greater heights and spreading itself to a wider compass.

(To be continued.)

TO THE EDITOR OF THE LONDON MAGAZINE.

SIR,

THE principal reason for troubling you with this letter is, to implore the able editor of the *Biographia Britannica*, when he comes to examine Chatterton's moral character, to give that circumstance particular attention. The unjustifiable asperity with which helpless youth and obscurity has been treated ought not to pass without notice.

To me it seems clear they have proceeded in their charges without the smallest foundation: no evidence has yet been stated, that can be fairly alledged to fix upon him either vice or crime. Let his years and conduct be

impartially considered; it is utterly incredible that a life of such intense mental application as Chatterton's, could have allowed of either bodily strength or inclination to indulge in vicious courses. In his infancy nothing occurs that distinguishes him much from other boys. During the period of his apprenticeship, the strictness and sobriety of his conduct is acknowledged by all; the day was spent in his master's office; in the evening he constantly retired to his mother and sisters; their society was his only recreation, and how amiable and engaging does it make him appear! On his arrival in London

every

every circumstance hitherto published, demonstrates that profligacy in him was an impossibility: a boy of sixteen, whose governing maxim (astonishing!) was *Diligence and Abstinence*, who hardly allowed himself three hours sleep at night, who sat up all the remaining hours writing poetry, who drank only water or tea, who eat in the most sparing manner, and seldom ever tasted animal food, must, I do insist upon it, annihilate those impulses so natural, and even excuseable, though dangerous, at that age. The truth of the old adage, *Sine Cerere et Baccho*, in a certain degree, is unquestionable; all the experienced admit that, and it may be affirmed that the Holy Austin's stratagem could not have been more effectual than the severe regimen of Chatterton.

Has Chatterton died in debt? Has he defrauded a friend? No such thing. In what then consists his guilt? That his ingenuity has baffled learning and sagacity in a matter harmless and indifferent, of pure amusement. In spite of critical gravity, I doubt the world will but rank this offence as one of the *innocent impostures*, no way prejudicial, rather diverting and pardonable. Whether the name of Chatterton or Rowley belongs to my book, I find I have my money's worth; I am entertained: would I could say as much of the two reverends, and their ponderous quarto's! One cannot help wondering what could in this case provoke the wrath of men of their seniority, worth, and abilities, against one whose extraordinary talents and youth should rather have biased in his favour. We can only form conjectures; it arose, perhaps, from misjudged zeal, something of professional duty; Chatterton, in a few passages, forcibly expressed indeed, has alluded with some disrespect to revealed religion: reprehensible as this may be, great allowances should be made for his age, and want of due information;

above all, the triumph of such a mind on the supposed discovery of a truth, and the boldness of setting at defiance early imbibed notions; a little more maturity, enquiry, and reflection, would have brought him right again.

The lively and amiable author of *Love and Madness* merits the highest applause; his discernment pierced through the gloom of prejudice and invective; his generous humanity impelled him to defend the innocent; it is to be hoped his further researches have not been discontinued; that since he traced out the woman at whose house Chatterton died, he may before this have overcome her repugnance to be seen and interrogated; and that the world may be favoured with new particulars of the youthful phenomenon. What a mournful idea presents itself, when we consider this desolate boy in his last hours! Alone in this huge city; in dreary solitude amidst this vast aggregate of *unsocial beings*; abandoned to despair, and not a fellow-creature to soothe his frenzy, or stretch forth a hand to save him. A fatality as extraordinary as his genius seems to have attended Chatterton; never able to attract notice during life, yet create such a blaze the moment of his death. What might not have been expected, had better fortune thrown him in the way of the learned and candid Tyrwhitt, with knowledge and studies so congenial to the mind of Chatterton? Fostered and directed by such a guide, to what amazing heights might not his genius have soared? But these suppositions are, perhaps, extravagant; perfection is not to be attained; it is rather more probable that premature force would have been soon expended: I have ever observed that extraordinary exertions of nature in the growth of plants, and the lower species of animals, have terminated in rapid decay.

I am, Sir, your's, &c.

HUMANI NIHIL ALIENUM.

ANECDOSES.

DAVID GARRICK, Esq. some years ago, had occasion to file a bill in the Court of Chancery against

an attorney at Hampton, to set aside an agreement surreptitiously obtained for the purchase of a house there, and

while the late Edmund Hoskins, Esq. was preparing the draft of the bill, Mr. Garrick wrote him the following lines:

To his counsellor and friend, Edmund Hoskins, Esq. Tom Fool sends greeting.

ON your care must depend the success of my suit,
The contest I mean 'bout the house in dispute;
Remember, my friend, an attorney's my foe,
And the worst of his tribe, tho' the best are so so.
In law, as in life, I know well 'tis a rule,
That a knave will be ever too hard for a fool;
To which rule one exception your client implores,
That the Fool may for once turn the Knave out of doors.

ANECDOCE of QUEEN CAROLINE.

The memory of Queen Caroline is revered for the excellence of her domestic character.

As a mother, she shone in a conspicuous manner, by the attention which she paid to cultivating the dispositions of her children.

Of her Majesty's superior talent for that tender office, of her adroitness in seizing the happy moment to instil virtuous principles, the following anecdote records an instance, which ought never to be forgotten:

The Princess Royal was accustomed, at going to rest, to employ one of the ladies of the court in reading aloud to her, till she should drop asleep.

It happened, one evening, that the lady who was appointed to perform this office, being indisposed, could not, without great inconvenience, endure the fatigue of standing; yet the Princess was inattentive to her situation, and suffered her to continue reading till she fell down in a swoon.

The Queen was informed of this the next morning. Her Majesty said nothing upon the subject; but at night, when she was in bed, sent for the Princess, and, saying that she wished to be lulled to rest, commanded her royal highness to read aloud.

After some time, the Princess began to be tired of standing, and paused, in hope of receiving an order to seat herself.—“ Proceed,” said her Majesty. In a short time a second stop seemed to plead for rest.—“ Read on,” said the Queen.—Again the Princess stopped: again she received an order to proceed;

till at last faint and breathless, she was forced to complain. Then did this excellent parent exhort her daughter to forbear how she indulged herself in ease, while she suffered her attendants to endure unnecessary fatigue.

An illustrious example to mothers, how to create and improve occasions for forming the dispositions of their children.

Anecdote of the PRINCE DE LIGNE, who commands the Imperial troops at Antwerp.

This noble Prince, who is considered by the English in some respects as the Jack Spencer of the *Pais-Bas*, being some years since at Amsterdam, kicked up, as the phrase is, *a dust* one night in that city; in consequence of which he was carried prisoner to the guard-house, and the next morning brought before the magistrate, where he behaved with great rudeness, and pleaded his rank in excuse for his folly; but the magistrate persisted in doing his duty, and with great propriety reprimanded him for his very improper behaviour. The Prince, however, when he was discharged, told the magistrate, that the day might come when he might have a favourable opportunity to resent the insult he had received at Amsterdam. Accordingly, the consequences have been fatal to thousands of innocent people; for soon after the Prince arrived at Antwerp, some company with whom he was conversing in the streets observed, that now he had a favourable opportunity to show his attention to his friends the Dutch. “ Yes (said the Prince) and on such a night I will give them a hot supper at Fort Lillo.” An Austrian soldier overhearing the conversation, thinking him serious in his declaration, instantly deserted to the Dutch, and informed them that Fort Lillo was to be attacked on such a particular night, for that he heard the Prince declare it. They believed him, and to secure themselves therefrom, laid twenty-four thousand acres of land under water, which, with the inundation, also spread death, famine, and desolation. But the Prince is a *buck*, and

and what signified the loss of fifty thousand pounds to his cousin, the Duke D'Aremberg?

Anecdote of Mrs. PRITCHARD and a FIDDLER.

The celebrated actress, Mrs. Pritchard, having retired with her family, during the summer, into a country village, took a fancy to see a play acted in a barn. She and her company engaged one of the best and most conspicuous seats in the little theatre. The scenes were made of pasteboard, and the clothes such as the manager could borrow or purchase. The orchestra was filled with one single Crowdero.—The actors were uncelebrated, it is true, but did their best. Mrs. Pritchard, instead of taking up with such fare as the country afforded, laughed so loudly and incessantly at the business of the scene, that the country audience were offended. Somebody present happened to know the great actress, and the fiddler asking her name, was told that she was the great Mrs. Pritchard, of the theatre-royal, in London.—“I will give her a hint presently,” said Crowdero, and immediately played the first tune in the Beggar’s Opera:

“Through all the employments of life,
“Each neighbour abuses his brother,” &c.

“Come, let’s be gone (said Mrs. Pritchard) we are discovered; that fiddler is clever;” and as she crossed over the stage to the entrance, she dropped Crowdero a curtsey, and thanked him for his admonition.

Anecdote of Dr. YOUNG.

Walking in his garden at Welwyn, in company with two ladies (one of whom he afterwards married) the servant came to tell him a gentleman wished to speak with him. “Tell him (says the Doctor) I am too happily engaged to change my situation.” The ladies insisted upon it that he should go, as his visitor was a man of rank, his patron, his friend; and, as persuasion had no effect, one took him by the right arm, the other by the left, and led him to the garden gate, when finding resistance was vain, he bowed, laid his hand upon his heart, and in that expressive manner for which he was so remarkable, spoke the following lines:

Thus Adam look’d when from the garden driven,
And thus disputed orders sent from Heaven:
Like him I go, but yet to go am loath;
Like him I go, for angels drove us both.
Hard was his fate, but mine still more unkind,
His Eve went with him, but mine stays behind.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE LONDON MAGAZINE.

SIR,

THAT a passage in the works of a writer as modern as Pope should need a comment will not appear extraordinary, when you recollect that we have no registers in which the successive changes of customs are chronicled, for the information of the curious. Hence, many of the fashions prevalent at the beginning of this century are now forgotten.

Why, says *Clarissa*, in the fifth canto of the *Rape of the Lock*, are all these honours lavished on our sex?

“Why round our coaches crowd the white-gloved beaux?

“Why bows the side box from its inmost rows?”

When this couplet was produced, it had no obscurity; but now, before the

reader can comprehend the full force of the second line of it, he must be told, that in the time of Pope, the side-boxes in our theatres were occupied by gentlemen only, and that the front ones were as entirely appropriated to ladies. The present mixture of sexes in all our seats of the highest price in the play-house is not very productive of that stillness which would at once befriend the actor and the intelligent spectator. *Lady Paper-Mill* must have her flirt with *Sir Charles Racket*, though “the blank verse halt for it.” Fruitless at such a moment would be even *Prospero’s* injunction. “Hush, and be mute, or else the spell is marr’d!” and *Zara* to as little purpose can affirm that

that "Silence is every where," when the tongues of the females and their gallants within a yard of her most forcibly contradict her assertion. One would almost think our modern dames had received a hint for their behaviour while any story is telling, from the second edition of Phaer's Virgil, in which *conticuere omnes*, "they whistled all, by the unlucky intrusion of a redundant letter, is rendered "they whistled all"—very uncourtly treatment of a hero who was beginning a narrative of his misfortunes.

I may add, that in some of our country churches, where the males and females still continue to be ranged on opposite sides of the aisle, their re-

spective attention to their duty is more earnest than where they happen to be promiscuously seated. I cannot, therefore, help wishing the obsolete custom of keeping the sexes (at least the fashionables of both) apart from each other was revived in every place where taciturnity is considered as a requisite to pleasure or meditation.

If you, Mr. Editor, are as fond as I am of hearing a good play, or a good sermon, without frequent interruptions, you will not refuse this hasty letter a place in the London Magazine.

I am Sir,

Your most humble servant,

March 12, 1785.

L. L.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE LONDON MAGAZINE.

SIR,

IT must be owned that there are several passages in the scripture, which, as the original has not been thoroughly considered, or rightly understood in the translation, seem absurd enough to exercise the shallow wit of some idle cavillers. Among these, there is one, which I shall attempt to explain in this letter. It is in the thirteenth verse of the eleventh chapter of Mark; in which, according to the translation, our Saviour curses the fig-tree, because *he found nothing thereon but leaves*, when it was impossible there should be any thing else, *for the time of figs was not yet*. But it is certain, that about this time of the year, there were figs in Judea; as it is well known that there were two sort of figs; one that ripened in the month *Nisan*, about the time of their passover, or our *Easter*, and the other not till the height of summer.

The former kind are mentioned in several passages of scripture, as in Canticles ii. 13; and in Hosea ix. 10. "I saw your fathers as the first ripe in the fig-tree at her first time." To fruits the prophets allude in the two following passages: Isaiah xxviii. 4. "The glorious beauty which is on the head of the fat valley shall be a fading flower, and as the hasty fruit before the summer." Micah viii. 1. "I am

as when they have gathered the summer fruits, as the grape gleanings of the vintage: there is no cluster to eat: my soul desired the first ripe fruit."

Let us then consider the original: οὐ γὰρ ἦν οὐαρός σύνων.—Now as the most ancient copies are without accents, it is hard to say, whether the particle οὐ is to be read with a *lene*, or an *aspirate*; and we must be determined by the sense of the place. Let us read it then with an *aspirate*, and the sense may be οὐ γὰρ ἦν, for *where he was, οὐαρός σύνων*, it was the time of figs. And it is no uncommon transition, to refer ἐγάρην to the word ἥλθεν, and not to ἐπέλθη. —You will find the like, cap. 16. v. 3, 4. and the ellipsis of the second η is frequent.

But if we retain the accent as it now stands, and put an interrogation point at the end of the sentence, the sense will be very clear, εγάρην οὐαρός σύνων; for was it not the time of figs? that is, affirmatively, *it was the time of figs*. So the Anglo-Saxon reads it, without taking any notice of the particle οὐ.—There are solutions of this passage in the commentators, but none which I like so well as either of these two; and therefore I shall not trouble you with them; nor need I shew you, how proper an emblem this was to warn the Jews of what their situation then was;

and

and what it shortly would be.—The curious reader, besides the common annotators, may consult Lightfoot's *Hor. Heb. ad Matth. 21. 19.* Le Clerc. *Crit. Art.* p. 201, and the excellent pieces against Wolston.

There is also another apparent contradiction between St. Luke and St. John, concerning the *breaking of the net*. But this is only imaginary. For St. Luke is speaking in the sixth verse of the fifth chapter of *a miraculous draught of fishes*, at the very beginning of our Saviour's ministry; and St. John, in the eleventh verse of the twenty-

first chapter of another draught, made some time after his resurrection. Surely then St. Luke might say the *net was broken*, in the former draught; and St. John, that it *was not broken*, in the latter, without their contradicting one another.

I shall only add, Sir, at present, that all cavils against the scripture, upon examination, will be found to be equally frivolous and unjust.

I am, Sir,
Your very humble servant,

X. Q.

March 1, 1785.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE LONDON MAGAZINE.

LETTER III. FROM LISLE*.

SIR,

IF the inhabitants may be believed, this town is of great antiquity, owing its origin to a castle (afterwards called *du Bne*) built by Julius Cæsar, about fifty years before the birth of Christ. As the castle was built for the purpose of protecting that part of the Roman province of Belgium from the incursions of the swarms of barbarous nations that lived beyond the Rhine, people chose to establish their residence in its neighbourhood, that they might be at hand to receive succour from the garrison of the castle, in case of an attack; hence it became at last the centre of a kind of town: it was constantly the residence of a Roman governor, till the empire of Rome was destroyed in the west; and then the ancient Kings of France used to send officers, called *Forrefters*, by whom the province of Flanders was governed, till it was given away in fee to a prince, who took the title of *Earl of Flanders*, which his descendants bore for many ages. In the garden of the Dominicans, or Black-Friars, are to be seen, the remains of Cæsar's old castle on an eminence, from which the country could be explored for many leagues, till by the erection of other building round about, and the falling down of the tower, the prospect was obstructed. Near to this spot is an inhabited *island*,

formed by the river Deûle, in the heart of the town, from which Lille derives its name (*L'Isle*, or *Island*.) The town is somewhat of an oval form, something more than a mile and a half in length, and a little less than a mile in breadth. It has seven gates, namely those of *St. Andrew* (otherwise called *Royal*, because it was built by Louis XIV.) to the north; *St. Magdalen*, *St. Maurice*, and *Fives*, to the east; *La Porte des Malades* (or of the sick) to the south; and *Our Lady's* (*Notre Dame*) and *La Barre* to the west; adjoining to this last gate is the citadel.

I shall set out from the right of the citadel in giving you a description of the works with which the different fronts that the town presents from these different gates are fortified. Between the citadel and *St. Andrew's* gate, there is only a demi front, by which the communication between both is kept up: this demi front is covered by outworks, which extend to the brink of the *Fosse* that contains the water which runs round the citadel, of which I shall say something hereafter. To the right of *St. Andrew's* is a most beautiful and strong *bastion*, covered by a great *horne-work*, which commands the water-gate, through which the river Deûle runs out of the town; and a little farther on, almost in front of this gate, are

two

* See our last number, p. 174.

two strong works, technically called *Tenaillons*. It was before this front the Allies sat down, when they began the siege of Lisle in 1708; and against it they directed their hottest fire: it was not, however, because this was the weakest part of the town, but because the Deûle afforded them a greater facility to bring their artillery and ammunition from Menin, than if they had carried them by land: by the length of the siege, which, exclusive of the defence made by the citadel, lasted three months, you may well conjecture the place was not weak; however, it has been since more strongly fortified by additional works, many of which have mines under them; and in case of necessity may in a moment be blown up by the garrison, if a besieging enemy should succeed so far as to make a lodgement on them: the two principal *bastions* of this place are extensive and strong; and would admit of retrenchments in the *gorge*. The next front that the town presents on this side is that of *St. Magdalen*: the *horn-work* which covers *St. Magdalen's* gate cannot be sufficiently admired; it is one of the finest pieces of fortification in Europe; it is the work of that famous engineer, Marshal Vauban: even the next front is covered by the fire of this *horn-work*. On the bastions are placed what engineers call *cavaliers*; that on the left, which was built before the siege of 1667, when Louis the XIVth took Lisle, did great execution among the besiegers; and that monarch having found its fire very terrible, went in person to view and inspect it minutely, after he had made himself master of the town.

St. Maurice's gate stands in the next front; it is defended by two large bastions; on that to the left is a *cavalier*, the *plunging* fire from which must render an attack on this side very hazardous indeed: the bastions themselves are covered by a number of other works. Near this gate are sluices, by means of which the lands for a considerable way in front may be laid under water; and such is the situation of the country near it, that a besieging army could not possibly drain it off.

The next front includes the gate of *Fives*, a name which it derives from a village called *Fives*, towards which it looks. It was on this side that Louis XIV. made his grand attack, and succeeded: but at that time the works consisted only of a few *half-moons*; at present there is a strong *bastion*, covered by a *counter-guard*. In the gorge of this bastion may be seen the old gate of *Fives*, which is now shut up. The reason of its being shut up, and another opened just near it, is curious enough. It was through this old gate that Louis the XIVth made his entry into Lisle after the siege; and in order to perpetuate in the minds of the inhabitants the memory of his greatness and munificence, he published an edict, by which he exempted from the payment of tolls or customs of any sort all goods, &c. that should arrive in Lisle through the gate by which the *Grand Monarque* had made his entry. But he had soon cause to wish he had not bestowed such a privilege on this gate; for the people all round the country used to go much out of their way, in order to enter the town by the gate of *Fives*; so that no toll or tax was paid at any of the other gates; and consequently there was almost an annihilation of the revenue arising from tolls and taxes on goods entering the town. The King saw it was necessary to devise some means to restore the revenue; but at the same time he made it a point of honour and of conscience not to violate the privileges granted by the edict. This *conscientious* and *honourable* monarch, who with so little remorse, and who, regardless of honour and public faith, revoked the Edict of Nantes, which had been published in consequence of a solemn treaty, had his scruples with respect to this gate: he was happy, however, in an expedient by which the revenue was restored, and his word not violated: he ordered a new gate to be built within a few yards of the old one; and then caused the latter to be shut up. The new gate could not be called the old one; therefore could not claim the privileges which had been granted only to the latter. But to return to the works. Farther on is the *bastion* of the *Noble Tower*,

Tower, so called from an ancient tower built by an Earl of Flanders, part of which is standing in the bastion, and is at present converted into a powder magazine: the bastion is strengthened by two horn-works, planned by Vauban. Between this bastion and the next gate stands a small fort, called *St. Saviour's*, or *Christ's Fort*, from the name of the parish in which it is built. It is fortified as well on the side of the town as of the country, being entirely walled in, having a gate towards the town, and a large deep ditch, or *fosse*, full of water; so that it is calculated as much for acting *against* the town, in case of insurrection, as *against* an enemy without.

La Porte des Malades, or Gate of the Sick, presents the next front: it takes its name from an hospital to which it formerly led; but which is now demolished. Though it bears so wretched a name, it is perhaps, without exaggeration, the finest and most magnificent gate in the world: the front of it is allowed by all travellers, to be an exquisite piece of architecture: it was built by order of Louis the XIVth: it is lofty and majestic, nearly in the shape of a triumphal arch, adorned with pillars or columns of the Dorick order; on one side stands a Hercules; on the other Mars; Fame is sounding her trumpet on high; and near the centre is a figure of Victory, crowning with laurel the bust of Louis the XIVth. About 200 yards from the gate, on the outside, is a small field, which was consecrated on purpose for the interment of such of the British prisoners who had been wounded in the bloody engagement at Fontenoy, in 1745, and died *Catholicks*, after they had been carryed to Lisle: and on one side of the field a gentleman shewed me a little road, about four feet broad, and 200 yards long, which he told me was made through another field, in which several hundreds of British prisoners, who had died of their wounds, had been interred: the reason why they had not been all buried together was, that the latter either died Protestants or nothing. You may naturally suppose I was shocked to find myself walking on a road, the substratum of which was composed of

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the bones of my countrymen: I felt the greatest horror, and soon turned off into an adjoining field. You must not, however, from this circumstance imagine that the people of Lisle are deficient in charity and humanity; they are charitable and humane almost to a fault; and while the British prisoners, of whom I have been just speaking, were alive, there was not the least distinction made about religion: the studies were suspended in all the colleges in Lisle immediately after the battle of Fontenoy; and the classes were filled with the English prisoners, where they were attended by the surgeons, and served with the greatest tenderness by the friars; the Jesuits in particular distinguished themselves on this occasion: their college was crowded, and what was singular there was not a Roman Catholick prisoner to be found in the college; they were all Protestants: When such of them as recovered were exchanged, they quitted the Jesuits with tears in their eyes, saying they had never lived so well, or experienced more tenderness in their own families. All this I have heard from respectable people in the town, and it has been confirmed by an old officer in our service, whom I met here by chance; and whose brother had been lodged by the Jesuits for three months, while he laboured under a wound he had received in the battle, which had fractured his scull: as soon as he was able to take the air, they took him out as often as he wished in a coach to their country-house, where they had fitted up an apartment for him, leaving it at his own option to lie in town or country: and when he was leaving them, they made him take a handsome sum of money to carry him to England, which was not unwelcome to an officer who was a younger brother, and no more than an ensign in the army.

I find I have travelled nearly round the town, as I have only two more gates to speak of, besides the citadel, and perceiving that I am at the end of my paper, I shall break off here, and finish our journey round the ramparts, perhaps also round the citadel, in my next. Your's, &c.

O o

A TRAVELLER.
FOR

FOR THE LONDON MAGAZINE.

MR. EDITOR,

JUST before you informed us some time since in your Magazine *why the grey mare is the better horse*, I was about showing you that it is not in England alone that the *grey mares prevail*: in the Austrian Netherlands I believe there is not a single instance where the wife does not govern; and to support their right, dignity, and power, on a certain day the women annually seise the persons of their husbands, and every male thing in their houses, swaddle them well up, and by

dint of violence put them to bed. On visiting an American rebel (a friend, you know, I may now call him) at Brussels, I found his face scratched, and his eyes much disordered, and, upon enquiry, I was told his hostess had *bedded him à-la-mode de Flandres*, the preceding evening. This custom, however, prevails only, I believe, among the *bourgeoisie* and middling class of people; the *better sort* of ladies, I fancy, take their men to bed *unswaddled*.

A. W.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE LONDON MAGAZINE.

SIR,

TO men inexperienced in the world nothing seems so sure a recommendation to fame and public favour as the display of superior merit. The utility of this prejudice to mankind at large is evident in the entertainment and pecuniary profit resulting from those strenuous endeavours that terminate in excellence. But the unfortunate projectors too frequently perceive with disgust and despondence, as they sink in poverty and contempt, that the gay visions which amused their youthful fancy were but the dangerous enchantments of simplicity and error. No class of men is more numerously included in this description than the votaries of the muse; and for none can be furnished a more natural apology.

*Tentanda via est, qua me quoque possim
Tollere humo, victorque virum valitare per ora,*
is a temptation that haunts them from the moment that infant imagination displays her blossoms. And what so agreeable as the praise resulting from the communication of the most innocent of all pleasures? Deceived by the volumes that he admires, the young bard is incurably persuaded, that

"Merit reigns here." — CHURCHILL.

So certainly, that should the present generation prove ungrateful, posterity

must at last make the due acknowledgement.

Yet it is probable that geniuses, even wafted on the wings of publication, has often *wafted its sweetness on the desert air*: and, among the number of writers who have been unjustly neglected, I would venture to rank the ingenious Mr. Henry Layng. There is a quarto volume of this gentleman's poems, chiefly translations; but in a style and numbers so excellent, as might well entitle him to the honour which he modestly claims of having assisted Mr. Pope in his Homer:

" Peace to his honour'd shade! with laurel-crown'd
Enthron'd he sat; the bards stood lift'ning round;
When (meanest of the train!) entranc'd I hung
To catch the nectar'd accents from his tongue;
Smiling he call'd me through the envying choir,
And bade me strike the loud Meonian lyre,
Trembling I touch'd the strings, he own'd the lays:
Firm I declin'd the envy and the praise.
But now nor praise nor envy calls, I come
To pay this mournful tribute at his tomb;
There let me, weeping at thy hallow'd shrine,
Suspend the votive lute that once was thine.
Thus, where the trunk of mighty Pompey lay,
Unflatter'd then, beneath the scorching ray,
His good old soldier, with a duteous hand,
Wet with his tears, heap'd up the Lybian sand;
Then on his javelin hung the well tried shield,
Which the great hero taught him first to wield."

This circumstance is omitted by Dr. Johnson in his *Anecdotes of Pope*.

But

But while Layng has been forgotten by the world, Cawthorne has received its exuberant applause. It is my design at present to propose some instances that may determine with what impartiality.

It is the opinion of many, that when Pope's harmony expired, the beauties of his versification were revived by Cawthorne. If weakness may pass for energy, and puerility for manliness, Cawthorne deserves the transplanted laurel. But if even the indisputable merit of Pope could not secure his fondness for antithesis from the objections of the critics; nor the sweet muse of Jerningham bribe the Reviewer's approbation with

“ *All* on the silken foliage of the rose;”
what must be the fate of such trivial lines as these?

The nerve to kindle, and the verse to flow.
The dirge to murmur, and the bust to rise.
His song to warble, and his wit to charm.

O come, in *all* the pomp of grief array'd!
And lost to glory, lost to *all* his fire.
All youth ennobles, and *all* worth admires.
Woke *all* my wishes from the trance of fame.
Where *ev'ry* science beams of *ev'ry* age.
Spread *all* his plumes, and snatch'd thee from
the grave.

Where *all* the battle burst in *all* its rage.
The list'ning ear, and open'd *all* the foul,
With *all* the luxuries of found to move.
And *all* his image takes up *all* my breast.
E'en now when *all* the vision beams around.
O blest with *all* that youth can give to please.
In war while *all* the trumps of fame inspire.
Light *all* their beams, and blaze upon thy dust.

The above at no great intervals: what follow in rapid succession:

Thou whose quick eye has glanc'd thro' *ev'ry* age.
View'd *ev'ry* scene, and studied *ev'ry* page,
Teach me like thee, with *ev'ry* virtue blest,
To catch *each* eye, and steal to *ev'ry* breast,
To rise to *all* that in *each* patriot thone,
And make *each* hero's happiness my own.

I hope that you will not think these quotations too numerous; it is the repetition of the faults that makes it particularly offensive. Of Cawthorne's poems, Abelard to Eloisa may be the best; but I own the Moonlight, which has sometimes been commended, pleases me better in the plate annexed than in the epistle. Of the others, several are certainly bad, and the rest indifferent. But, that I may not give judgement without proof, nor extend these remarks beyond your usual limits, perhaps I shall resume this subject at some more convenient opportunity.

I am, Sir, your's, &c.
A CONSTANT READER.

FOR THE LONDON MAGAZINE.

ORIGIN OF THE TERM, MAN OF THE PEOPLE.

MONSIEUR GOURVILLE, originally a domestic of the Prince of Condé, raised himself by his merit to offices of great trust and employment. Such was the opinion of his abilities, that, on the death of the great minister Colbert, it was a matter of dispute in the cabinet of Louis XIV. whether Gourville should not be appointed his successor.

This gentleman arrived in England at the time when Charles II. and his parliament were at variance. Sir William Temple, who knew Gourville, and his faculty of discernment, asked

him what he thought of the kingly power in England? His answer was remarkable: “ If (said Gourville) the King of England could be prevailed upon to fall in with the general sentiments of his subjects, and become *the Man of his People*, no prince in Europe would be his superior; if not, he will be the most insignificant of all monarchs.” — Sir William had the honesty and courage to relate this conversation to Charles II. who declared that he “ would be the *Man of his People*.” But Charles did not keep his word.

LITERARY REVIEW.

ARTICLE CXVI.

COXE's Travels into Poland, Russia, Sweden, and Denmark. 4to. Two Volumes.

(Continued from page 202.)

WE left our traveller proceeding on his journey from Moscow to Peterburgh, a route of not less than 500 miles, in almost a straight line, cut thro' the forest. He describes it as extremely tedious and toilsome to pass; the whole way lying chiefly through endless tracts of wood, only broken by here and there a village, round which the grounds are open and cultivated. The manner in which this road has been formed, and bottomed with felled trees, is very curious; but, for the particulars, we must refer to the book.

Mr. Coxe's account of the Russian peasantry conveys to us no very favourable ideas of their improvement in civilization. The particulars which he relates will convince every reader, that they are still deeply immersed in ignorance and barbarity.

Petersburgh has been very often described by travellers; yet we cannot omit one paragraph, by Mr. Coxe, on the subject:

"The views (says he) upon the banks of the Neva exhibit the most grand and lively scenes I ever beheld. That river is in most places broader than the Thames at London: it is also deep, rapid, and as transparent as crystal; and its banks are lined on each side with a continued range of handsome buildings. On the north side the fortresses, the Academy of Sciences and the Academy of Arts are the most striking objects; on the opposite side are the Imperial palace, the admiralty, the mansions of many Russian nobles, and the English line, so called because (a few houses excepted) the whole row is occupied by the English merchants. In the front of these buildings, on the south side, is the Quay, which stretches for three miles,

except where it is interrupted by the Admiralty; and the Neva, during the whole of that space, has been lately embanked, at the expence of the Empress, by a wall-parapet and pavement of hewn granite, a most elegant and durable monument of imperial munificence."

In his account of the famous colossal statue of Peter the Great, executed by Mr. Falconet, Mr. Coxe says, "If there be any defect in this figure, it consists in the flat position of the right hand, a very trifling defect indeed in a figure so stupendous in size, so magnificent in design, and so masterly in execution."

From this exhibition of dead excellence we are led to the contemplation of living worth in the person of the present Empress, whose appearance at court Mr. Coxe thus describes:

"The chief officers of the household, the mistress of the robes, the maids of honour, and other ladies of the bed-chamber, advancing two by two in a long train, announced the approach of their sovereign. Her Majesty came forward with a slow and solemn pace, walking with great pomp, holding her head very high, and perpetually bowing to the right and to the left as she passed along. She stopped a little way within the entrance of the drawing-room, and spoke with great affability to the foreign ministers while they kissed her hand. She then advanced a few steps, and we were singly presented by the vice-chancellor Count Osterman, and had the honour of kissing her Majesty's hand. The Empress wore, according to her usual custom, a Russian dress, namely, a robe with a short train, and a vest with sleeves reaching to the wrist, like a Polonaise;

Polonaise; the vest was of gold brocade, and the robe was of light green silk; her hair was dressed low, and lightly sprinkled with powder: she wore a cap set thick with diamonds, and had a great deal of rouge. Her person, though rather below the middle size, is majestic, and her countenance, particularly when she speaks, expresses both dignity and sweetnes. She walked slowly through the drawing-room to her apartment, and entered alone."

Speaking of the court of Russia, he says, " The richness and splendour of this court surpasses all the ideas which the most elaborate descriptions can suggest. It retains many traces of its ancient Asiatic pomp, blended with European refinement. An immense retinue of courtiers always preceded and followed the Empress; the costliness and glare of their apparel, and a profusion of precious stones, created a splendour, of which the magnificence of other courts can give us only a faint idea. The court dress of the men is in the French fashion: that of the ladies is a gown and petticoat, with a small hoop; the gown has long hanging sleeves and a short train, and is of a different colour from the petticoat. The ladies wore, according to the fashion of the winter 1777 at Paris and London, very lofty head-dresses, and were not sparing in the use of rouge. Amidst the several articles of sumptuousness which distinguish the Russian nobility, there is none perhaps more calculated to strike a foreigner than the profusion of diamonds and other precious stones, which sparkle in every part of their dress."

Speaking of their nobility, Mr. Coxe says they are distinguished for their hospitality towards foreigners.

" We were (adds he) no sooner presented to a person of rank and fortune, than we were regarded in the light of domestic visitants. Many of the nobility keep an open table, to which one invitation was considered as a standing passport of admission. The only ceremony necessary to be observed on this occasion, was to make inquiry in the morning if the master of the house

dined at home; and if he did, we, without further ceremony, presented ourselves at his table. The oftener we appeared at these hospitable boards, the more acceptable guests we were esteemed; and we always seemed to confer, instead of receiving an obligation.

" The tables were served with great profusion and taste. Though the Russians have adopted the delicacies of French cookery, yet they neither affect to despise their native dishes, nor squeamishly reject the solid joints which characterise our repasts. The plainest, as well as the choicest viands, were collected from the most distant quarters: I have frequently seen at the same time sterlet from the Volga, veal from Archangel, mutton from Astrachan, beef from the Ukraine, and pheasants from Hungary and Bohemia. Their common wines are chiefly claret, Burgundy, and Champaigne, and I never tasted English beer and porter in greater perfection and abundance. Before dinner, even in the houses of persons of the first distinction, a small table is spread in a corner of the drawing-room, covered with plates of caviare, dried and picked herrings, smoked ham or tongue, bread, butter, and cheese, together with bottles of different liqueurs; and few of the company of either sex omitted a prelude of this kind to the main entertainment. This practice has induced many travellers to relate, that the Russians swallow bowls of brandy before dinner. What are the usages of the vulgar in this particular I cannot determine; but among the nobility I never observed the least violation of the most extreme sobriety: and this custom of taking liqueurs before dinner, considering the extreme smallness of the glasses used on this occasion, is a very innocent refreshment, and will not convey the faintest idea of excess. Indeed the Russians in no other wise differ from the French in this instance, than that they taste a glass of liqueur before their repast, while the latter defer it till after dinner."

The manner in which eminent persons spend their time being an article of

of great curiosity and importance to mankind, we cannot omit Mr. Coxe's account of the distribution of the hours of the day by the present Empress of Russia:

" Her Majesty usually rises about six, and is engaged till eight or nine in public business with her secretary. At ten she generally begins her toilet; and while her hair is dressing, the ministers of state, and her aid-de-camps in waiting, pay their respects and receive their orders. Being dressed about eleven, she sends for her grandchildren the young princes Alexander and Constantine, or visits them in their own apartment. Before dinner she receives a visit from the Great-Duke and Duchess: and sits down to table rather before one. She has always company at dinner, usually about nine persons, consisting of the generals and lords in waiting, a lady of the bed-chamber, a maid of honour, and two or three of the Russian nobility, whom she invites. Their Imperial highnesses dine with her three times in the week, on which days the party is increased to eighteen persons. The lord of the bed-chamber in waiting, who always sits opposite to the Empress, carves one dish and presents it to her; an attention, which after having once politely accepted, she afterwards dispenses with. Her Majesty is remarkably temperate, and is seldom at table more than an hour. From thence she retires to her own apartment; and about three frequently repairs to her library in the Hermitage. At five she goes to the theatre*, or to a private concert; and, when there is no court in the evening, has a private party at cards. She seldom sups, generally retires at half past ten, and is usually in bed before eleven."

In accounts of Russia, we always look with avidity for anecdotes of its legislator Peter the Great. Mr. Coxe has been at some pains to gratify this curiosity. He draws this character of Peter:

" A royal historian has justly observed of Peter, that he compensated

the cruelties of a tyrant by the virtues of a legislator. We must readily allow that he considerably reformed and civilized his subjects; that he created a navy; that he new-modelled and disciplined his army; that he promoted the arts and sciences, agriculture, and commerce; and laid the foundation of that glory which Russia has since attained. But, instead of crying out in the language of panegyric,

Erubescit ars! Hic vir maximus tibi nihil debuit: Exulta, natura! Hoc stupendum tuum est:

We may, on the contrary, venture to regret, that he was not *taught* the lessons of humanity; that his sublime and unruly genius was not controlled and improved by proper culture; nor his savage nature corrected and softened by the refinements of *art*. And if Peter failed in enlightening the mass of his subjects as much as he wished, the failure was principally occasioned by his own precipitate temper, by the chimerical idea of introducing the arts and sciences by force, and of performing in a moment what must be the gradual work of time; by violating the established customs of his people; and, in contradiction to the dictates of sound policy, requiring an immediate sacrifice of those prejudices which had been sanctified by ages. In a word, his failure was the failure of a superior genius wandering without a guide; and the greatest eulogium we can justly offer to his extraordinary character, is to allow that his virtues were his own, and his defects those of his education and country."

The commonly received opinion of Peter's aversion to the water, Mr. Coxe strongly reprobates, and says, he seems always to have expressed a strong attachment to that element. Of the severity of his character, Mr. Coxe gives this remarkable instance:

" It is a well-known fact, that Peter was accustomed to assist at the examination of the prisoners who were accused of high treason; that he would be present at the tortures inflicted upon them, in order to force confession; that he would frequently attend at their

* An Italian opera; a set of Russian and another of French players were, in 1778, maintained at her Majesty's expence, at which the spectators were admitted gratis.

their execution; that he would sometimes himself perform the office of executioner; and would occasionally consign that task to his favourites and principal nobles. Korb relates, that, soon after the insurrection of the Strelitz in 1698, Peter scornfully reproached many of the nobles who trembled at being compelled to behead some rebels, adding, in a strain of sanguinary justice, ' that there was no victim more acceptable to the Deity than a wicked man.'

Mr. Coxe confirms the generally received account of Catharine's ascendancy over her husband, Peter. This woman, who had been a peasant, could approach him when no one else durst, and was the mediatrix between the furious monarch and his subjects. He would, it seems, frequently give orders for the execution of a criminal when she was absent, for fear she

should plead in his favour. Yet, alas! after behaving so nobly during Peter's life-time, when left to herself, she became a different person. Mr. Coxe says of her, during her short reign, that her life was very irregular. She was extremely averse to business; would frequently, when the weather was fine, pass whole nights in the open air, and was particularly intemperate in the use of Tokay, in which she often indulged herself to excess. Mr. Coxe tells us, that she could neither read nor write, and that her daughter used to sign her public acts for her.—Of her person he says, " that she was under the middle size, and in her youth delicate and well formed, but inclined to corpulency as she advanced in years. She had a fair complexion, dark eyes, and light hair, which she was always accustomed to dye with a black colour."

(To be continued.)

ART. CVII. *Observations on the Animal Economy, and on the Causes and Cure of Diseases.* By John Gardiner, M. D. President of the Royal College of Physicians, and Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

(Concluded from page 198.)

IN the seventh section the author treats *Of the Cholera*. And here he enters pretty largely into the consideration of the effects of excess of heat upon the body. Upon this disease the author's observations agree so much with those of the generality of physicians, that it would be altogether superfluous to lay a detail of them before the reader.

Section the eighth. *Of the Bilious, Remitting, and Intermittent Fever.* This fever, Dr. Gardiner observes, appears under different forms, and hence has received different appellations. He is of opinion, however, whatever its variations may be, that it universally originates from the same cause, and is, in reality, at all times, one and the same disease. The exacerbations and remissions are accounted agreeably to the theory laid down in the subsequent section.

In treating of the cure, the author gives some useful cautions concerning venesection in fevers of this kind; in which, unless the symptoms of inflammation run high, it is never to be

employed.—These cautions are followed by many judicious remarks upon the operation and exhibition of antimonials, in these disorders, and in febrile affections in general.

When the inflammatory symptoms abate, and the fever puts on the intermittent type, the Peruvian bark is to be administered; and cordials, anti-spasmodics, and antiseptics are to be had recourse to when the powers of life begin to decline, the strength of the patient to be exhausted, and the fluids to become putrid. With regard, however, to the action of antiseptics; the author's ideas are somewhat different from those of most others of the profession. It is generally supposed that they directly correct and put a stop to the putrefaction by their operation upon the fluids themselves! this notion the Doctor rejects, and adopts one which is much more consistent with reason and with physiology. He is of opinion that their action is chiefly upon the *prima viae*, which they corroborate, and, by corroborating them, invigorate and strengthen the whole system;

system: and thus, *mediately* or *indirectly*, arrest or prevent the putrefaction of the fluids; their primary operation being, in this manner, upon the solids.

The ninth and last section treats *Of Intermittents*. After having deservedly censured those physicians who are fond of multiplying the same disease into almost endless species and varieties, and of giving to each of these a peculiar name; the author proceeds to explain the manner in which marsh miasma enter into and operate upon the human body: and in doing this he unfolds to the reader, more completely than he had before done in any of the preceding sections, his own doctrine concerning the proximate cause of fevers.

He supposes that the marsh miasma, as he had before observed of other contagions, is swallowed with the saliva into the stomach, and that it there acts as a ferment upon the fluids contained in the stomach, the coats of which are, in consequence, so much irritated, as to pour out mucus for their glands preternatural both in quantity and quality. When this mucus, or, as the author terms it, febrile stimulus, is accumulated to a certain quantity, it so irritates and disorders the stomach and by sympathy the whole body, as to occasion the phenomena attendant upon the cold stage, during which the febrile stimulus, lodged in the *prima via*, is gradually absorbed; till, at length, it is so sufficiently removed as to no longer disturb, in any great degree, the stomach and the rest of the system: the cause, therefore, of the cold fit being thus removed, the effect, the cold fit itself, necessarily ceases, the warmth of the body returns, the pulse from being weak becomes full and strong, and the visage from pale becomes red, *i. e.* the hot fit comes on, being the consequence of a plethora induced by the absorption of the mucus from the alimentary canal, and of the fluids from other cavities of the body into the blood. And, now, the cuticular pores, which, during the cold fit had been constricted, are relaxed by the heat which the body

has acquired: hence a sweat appears, which, together with the urinary discharge, carrying off the fluids which had been absorbed into the vessels, removes the plethora, and consequently puts a stop to the hot fit which depended upon or consisted in that plethora.

Nothing has perplexed physicians more than to account for the periodical returns of the paroxysms in intermittent fevers. The author of the present work attempts the explanation in the following manner: "By the time (says he) the sweating stage is finished, I have supposed the acid fluids in the alimentary canal, on which the febrile stimulus depended, to have been so far carried off by absorption, that what remained gave little or no disturbance to the system. Although an intermission takes place, yet, as the secretions in the *prima via* continue in the same morbid state, it is reasonable to suppose, that the acrid fluids will again collect, after a certain interval, to such a quantity as shall be capable of renewing the paroxysm. This return, however, of the fit with so much regularity, in twenty-four or forty-eight hours, as is commonly observed, has, next to the accession itself, always been the most unaccountable circumstance attending an intermittent. But, when we seriously consider the great uniformity of Nature in all her operations, it is easy to conceive, that near an equal quantity of bile and of the gastric fluids will be secreted in equal times; and when the patient gets over those irregular returns of the paroxysms which sometimes accompany an intermittent at its commencement, and the disease comes to assume the regular type of a quotidian, tertian, or quartan, then we say, that twenty-four, forty-eight, or seventy-two hours must elapse before that quantity of fluids necessary to bring on a paroxysm can be secreted, or, that they can acquire by stagnation and heat the degree of acrimony requisite to produce that effect."

For a confirmation of this theory we are referred to the consideration of the operation and effects of the medicines

cines used in the cure of these and other fevers. From such consideration it will appear that those medicines which cleanse the *prævia*, which diminish the preternatural irritability in the system, which correct the contents of the intestinal canal, and lastly, which give tone and strength to the whole body, are the medicines which remove these diseases, and that they effectuate this end by throwing the febrile stimulus out of the body, or by defending it against the action of such of the stimulus as may remain within it.

In enumerating the remedies which are to be employed for the removal of intermittents, the author makes particular mention of the Peruvian bark, and presents us with several useful observations relative to its exhibition in these cases.

The remainder of the section consists of remarks on the use of astringents, opiates, and antispasmodics in intermittent fevers; and with these remarks, together with a few prophylactic observations, the whole of the work is brought to a conclusion.

Thus have we endeavoured to lay before our readers some account of Dr. Gardiner's book. The theory which is delivered in it concerning the proximate cause of intermittents and other fevers in general is, it will be seen, entirely new. From its simplicity the author flatters himself that it is entitled to the notice of, and deserves some credit amongst medical men.

That the stomach is, as the author throughout the whole of his work has attempted to show, the grand seat of diseases, that it is the part which, in most febrile disorders, is primarily affected, that it is so sympathetically connected with the whole system that, when it is disturbed, the rest of the frame is soon afterwards deranged, many circumstances seem strongly to prove: and although the objections which the Doctor has brought against the general opinion, that contagion enters by the lungs into the blood, be not sufficient to prove that it is *impossible* that infection should be received in that way: yet it cannot be denied that there is the greatest probability

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and the fullest *presumptive* proof, that the contagious particles are admitted into the stomach, and that they do there operate in the manner which has been described.

At the same time, however, that this is said, it must be confessed, that this theory which the Doctor has advanced, is, like all others which have preceded it, liable to many objections. The absorption of the collected mucus from the *prævia* during the cold stage, and the supposed consequent plethora during the hot fit, some, perhaps, will call in question or even deny: and, it may be urged, that if this theory were true, every physician would have it in his power to prevent, in any case whatever, the paroxysms, either entirely or in part, by evacuating the stomach and intestines of the febrile stimulus accumulated in them, just before the time of their usual accession.

These, and such like objections, it is true, may be opposed to the theory of the author. They are not, however, of such a nature as to affect it very materially: and, upon the whole, when we reflect upon the facts on which it is founded; when we revert to the arguments by which it is supported; and, above all, when we consider its great simplicity, and the easy and satisfactory solution which it affords of many of those morbid phenomena which have hitherto so much confounded and perplexed the most discerning physicians: when all these circumstances are severally and duly revolved and weighed in our minds, we shall perceive that this theory does credit to the penetration of him from whom it proceeds, and we shall readily allow that, however imperfect it may be, it is far less exceptionable than any of those which, on the same subject, have appeared before it.

As for the work in general: from the account which we have given of its contents, the reader will see that the subjects of which it treats are the most important of any in medicine. Throughout the whole of it are dispersed many valuable physiological and practical observations. In particular several curious facts are mentioned from

the Medical Annotations of Sir John Pringle, bequeathed (on condition of non-publication) by him to, and now deposited in the library of the Edinburgh College of Physicians. Of Sir J. Pringle's writings Dr. Gardiner, indeed, seems to be exceeding fond, and his partiality in this respect, almost extends to a censurable length.

Perhaps the author in some of his explanations has had too much recourse

to sympathy; and it may appear a little strange, that he should have thrown out so much blame in his preface upon theorizing men, and yet have afterwards theorised very freely himself.

Allowing for typographical errors, the stile is, in general, sufficiently correct. In one or two parts there is not so much perspicuity as might have been wished.

P.

ART. CXVIII. *The Life of Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury. By William Gilpin, M. A. Prebendary of Salisbury, and Vicar of Boldre, in New Forest, near Lymington.* 8vo. 3s. 6d. Boards. Blamire. 1784.

THIS ingenious writer is already well known, not only by the *Life* of Bernard Gilpin, his ancestor, but also by lives of several of the first reformers and early protestants*, which are held in just estimation. The present publication will not detract from his merit. He enters, however, with diffidence on his office, since, as he observes, the character of Cranmer has been equally the subject of exaggerated praise, and undeserved censure; the latter from the Papists, the former with the Protestants. This author's design is to give an impartial account; for, as he properly remarks, "Every cause in which truth is concerned, is the better for having all things but truth sifted from it." He adds, and we believe with justice too, on the present occasion, "we shall not easily find a character that can allow deduction so well."

Cranmer was not merely distinguished by his capacity and his rank, but also, and chiefly, by the critical, hazardous, and remarkable period in which he lived. In more easy times, many a person might fit in that chair, which he so eminently filled, who would sink to the grave in peace without much notice or regret. But to Cranmer the eyes of the world were directed: the times marked him out: it required all the ability and virtue, all the faith and piety, a human being can be supposed to possess, to persevere, through every opposing difficulty, with integrity, benevolence, and honour. We shall not wonder then, since he was a human being, if there are in-

stances in which he failed; though it must be acknowledged, some are of a kind that will admit very little to be said in their vindication. His biographer, while he venerated his memory, as we think a good man must, deals very fairly in relating his errors, and at the same time offers such pleas as situation and circumstances present for their alleviation.

The conduct of Dr. Cranmer, in the earlier parts of his life, and inferior stations, was such as became the student, and bespoke the man of worth. His temper mild and pleasing, yet strict in the observance of rectitude and order, and his attention bent to the real improvement of himself and others. That he had formed to himself views of the ambitious kind does not appear; nor was it very likely, if he had any such, that they should be gratified. The first opening to his farther advancement seemed like a mere incidental circumstance. He was occasionally at the house of a gentleman, at Waltham, with whom Mr. Fox and Mr. Gardiner (afterwards Bishop of Winchester) were lodged. They were at that time in the retinue of the King (Henry VIII.) who came to the place on a journey. The conversation turned on the subject of the divorce, which the King had so much at heart, and respecting which he found so much dissimulation and obstruction from the court of Rome. Then it was that Cranmer accidentally, as it should seem, made the proposal of collecting the opinions of the different universi-

ties

* Latimer, Wycliffe, &c.

ties of Europe, and being determined by them. This was carried to the King, who approved it warmly. It is well known that Cranmer was himself employed on the embassy, which answered according to their wishes.

This was the sure road to preferment: Dr. Cranmer speedily saw himself at the head of the English church. But it ought to be added, that it was a distinction which he deserved: he had qualifications and virtues which were fitted to the station. It is surprising, that a prince, haughty, capricious and despotic, as Henry certainly was, should have preserved an attachment to this wise and worthy prelate: yet he maintained it to the last: it was among the best things that could be said of him, that he respected this bishop's merit, and defended him against all his enemies.

Dr. Cranmer was almost from the beginning of life friendly to the principles of the reformation. When at college, he ranked himself in the class of men commonly known by the name of *Scripturists*. In farther life, he became more fully persuaded of the errors and tyranny of popery, and more closely united to the protestant cause. His time, his abilities, his influence, his purse, were all employed to advance religion and virtue, to encourage learning and learned men, and promote the real benefit of mankind. How noble, how amiable does he appear, while in different methods he prosecutes such good purposes!

But great and worthy as he was, his virtues had their shades, if they were not sometimes wholly eclipsed: the part which he took in the divorce of Queen Catherine is surely not defensible. "It is with concern (says Mr. Gilpin) that we see a man of Dr. Cranmer's integrity and simplicity of manners, acting so much out of character, as to compound an affair of this kind, if not with his conscience, at least with all delicacy of sentiment; and to parade through Europe, in the quality of an ambassador, defending every where the King's *pious intentions*." Yet there may be something, perhaps, in the following apology: "But the cause ani-

mated him. With the illegality of the King's marriage he endeavoured virtually to establish the insufficiency of the Pope's dispensation; and the latter was an argument so near his heart, that it seems to have added merit to the former. We cannot indeed account for his embarking so zealously in this business, without supposing his principal motive was to free his country from the tyranny of Rome, to which this step very evidently led. So desirable an end would, in some degree, he might imagine, sanctify the means."

Possibly it might be so.—Yet it seems best to acknowledge at once, that this is both bad logic and bad divinity. And here we find another difficulty; since such was his desire to weaken the papal influence, it may be farther asked, how came he to take the oath of fidelity to the Pope at his consecration? This has often been alledged against the archbishop: "His friends, however (Mr. Gilpin observes) suppose they sufficiently apologize for his behaviour, by remarking, that he made his exceptions openly, without any mental reservation, and that he fully satisfied those, who were empowered to administer the oath. Yet, after all, it was rather trifling with what he esteemed sacred, and does not perfectly harmonize with that unequivocal probity generally attributed to him.

We are too soon called again to the same reflections, by the sad catastrophe of Ann Bolleyn. The Archbishop, during the former part of this iniquitous and mysterious business, was directed, by an order from the King, to keep his house at Lambeth: but when it served his purpose, Henry introduced him as an actor. And we are surprised, as Mr. Gilpin justly adds, to find a man of the Archbishop's character, submitting, in any shape, to be an actor in so complicated a scene of barbarism, cruelty, absurdity, and injustice.—The whole, in short, has the appearance of a dishonest submission to a tyrant's passions, and we can apologize for it only as we have done for some other of this prelate's compliances, by supposing that his meekness

was violently borne down by the King's impetuosity.—Indeed, it is farther observed, the plenitude of a King's power was never so deeply impressed on the minds of men, as in this reign; though it took, in future reigns, as far as such jargon can do, a more systematic form. The *vox Dei*, which was afterwards *too freely* supposed to issue from the people, was however now supposed to issue solely from the throne. When, therefore, we find these great condescensions to a prince, in men of eminent characters, we must not measure them by the liberal notions of later times, but must make some allowances for those high ideas of kingly authority, which prevailed in those periods in which they lived. In another place, the author observes, in behalf of Dr. Cranmer, that his mildness and simplicity were unequally matched with the impetuosity of Henry; who having no scruples of his own, considered little the scruples of others. To this may be added, that the primate thought himself strongly attached by gratitude to his prince. And, indeed, the errors of this excellent person, as we shall have other occasions to observe, were less owing to the temptations of vice, than to the weakness of some unguarded virtue."

Thus does Mr. Gilpin plead for the prelate: it would be unjust, as may appear from the short extracts we have given, not to own that he also freely censures him. One argument above suggested, is, we apprehend, often misunderstood or misapplied; we mean that of gratitude; an excellent virtue, which ought to be carefully cherished; but if, on account of favours conferred, it is supposed that persons are to submit to what is criminal, or to act against judgement and conscience, a compliance in such respects is no longer gratitude, but mean, sordid self-interest, and the most abject slavery.—We must, nevertheless, admit, that there is some strength in the considerations which our biographer proposes. If they do not exculpate, as certainly they cannot, they soften and palliate. The more, however, we read concerning courts and courtiers, in former or

later days, or observe what passes in our own time, the more we find ourselves obliged to accede to the truth of Dr. Tillotson's remark; that it is hardly possible to step over the threshold of a court, and remain an honest man.

From these rather unpleasant views of the primate's conduct, let us turn to others which are more honourable: his general character was that of piety, mildness, and benevolence: his zeal was sincere and warm for Christian and Protestant truth, so far as he understood the subject: for, as Mr. Gilpin very pertinently remarks, "how far the Archbishop himself was enlightened, cannot easily be known at this day:" his zeal was tempered by prudence: he might esteem some concessions, which others would censure, not merely justifiable, but in present circumstances right and necessary; and regard *that* as obstinacy in respect to them, which others considered as virtue: difficult, however, as his circumstances were, he manifested a general firmness in support of the reformation, and in some instances maintained it in a very remarkable manner. "It is wonderful, indeed (says his biographer) that he did so much; for except in the matters of supremacy and transubstantiation, the King and he had very different sentiments on every topic of religion: and the passions of Henry, those gusts of whirlwind, made it dangerous for any one to oppose him. But the Archbishop, though he tried this hardy experiment oftener than once, never lost his favour.—In the business of monasteries he risked it most."

His opposition to the famous act of the *Six Articles*, framed by Gardiner, in favour of some of the more peculiar articles of the Roman church, was worthy and noble: "The good Archbishop (says our author) never appeared in a more truly Christian light than on this occasion. In the midst of so general a defection (for there were numbers in the house who had hitherto shewn great forwardness in reformation) he alone made a stand. Three days he maintained his ground, and baffled the arguments of all opposers. But

But argument was not their weapon; and the Archbishop saw himself obliged to sink under superior power. Henry ordered him to leave the House. The primate refused. ‘ It was God’s cause (he said) and not man’s.’ And when he could do no more, he boldly entered his protest.’—“ Such an instance of fortitude (it is added) is sufficient to wipe away many of those courtly stains which have fastened on his memory.”

In other circumstances of danger he also preserved the same firm and upright conduct. In the affair of the Earl of Essex, whose ruin not a single person beside endeavoured to avert, *he* wrote to the King, united himself with the falling minister, and laboured, at the hazard of his own safety, to inspire his royal master with ideas of justice. His integrity and virtue appear still more eminently in respect to the Duke of Norfolk, who had always thwarted the primate’s measures, and oftener than once is said to have practised against his life. Henry had ordered that the Duke should be attainted by act of parliament, and the bill passed the House with great ease; but the Archbishop considered the affair with horror; “ and, although the King had in a particular manner interested himself in this business, opposed it with all his might; and when his opposition was vain, he left the House with indignation, and retired to Croydon.”

Yet how blended are human characters! It appears almost unaccountable, that this man of meekness, simplicity, and piety, should have acted the part he did in relation to Joan Bocher, and George Paris, who, for some points of speculation and opinion, were both tried and condemned to the stake. It was at a time when there were no humours or commands of an unjust prince to contend with; when farther reformation in religious affairs was carrying on with the approbation of the court; but at this season, so favourable, it might be supposed, to liberty of conscience, “ the Archbishop not only consented to these acts of blood, but even persuaded the aversion of the young King (Edward

VI.) into a compliance.” Here Mr. Gilpin totally and rightly gives him up. “ There are, however (he says) among Protestant writers at this day, some who have undertaken his vindication. But I spare their indiscretion. Let the horrid act be universally disclaimed. To palliate is to participate. With indignation let it be recorded, as what above all other things has disgraced that religious liberty, which our ancestors, in most other respects, so nobly purchased.”

But it is time to finish this article. The last scenes of Dr. Cranmer’s life, are what we would almost wish never to have heard. He prepared himself with great firmness and serenity for that change of affairs which he saw was taking place on the accession of Queen Mary, and the same Christian spirit he preserved during his confinement and other sufferings in the cause of liberty and truth. He never appeared more truly honourable than when the ceremony of degradation was performed, when, instead of his archiepiscopal dress, he was clad in a plain frieze gown, the common habit of a yeoman at that time, and had, what was then called a *town’s-man’s* cap on his head. In this garb he was carried back to prison; and who, without indignation, can hear, that such a fellow (no term is too contemptuous for one so hateful) as Bonner, then Bishop of London, was calling after him, “ He is now no longer my lord!—He is no longer my lord!”

His behaviour during his imprisonment was composed and exemplary. But his adversaries had other designs against him. Soon after his degradation their treatment of him was altered. He was attended with great civility and respect, elegant entertainments were made for him, and no liberty or indulgence denied: to which were added a variety of insinuating measures to engage him to conform to the present changes in religion. “ Among all the instances (says our author) of diabolical cruelty, we scarce find a greater than this. The whole rage of the popish party seemed to be centered against this upright man. His soul

soul they had damned; his body they were determined to burn; they wanted only to blast his reputation. With this view these wicked arts were practised against him—which succeeded, alas! too well.” We wish to draw a veil over this affecting event. Happy was it for Dr. Cranmer, that repentance immediately followed his forced assent to the tenets of popery. It was clearly manifested, before he knew that his death was determined. What followed, particularly in the church of St. Mary’s, Oxford, can hardly be read without the greatest distress. He appears in the fullest and most public manner to have disburthened his conscience, and after that, to have met the fiery trial even with a cheerful spirit: a memorable example of human frailty and Christian virtue!

Bishop Latimer, or Bishop Ridley, who, as having more polished manners, may be supposed to come nearer to Cranmer, on the whole, appear to be superior characters. Mr. Gilpin is for drawing a comparison between him and Archbishop Laud. “ Both (says he) were good men—both were equally zealous for religion—both were engaged in the work of reformation.” Many readers will hardly concede all these points to our author. As far as any degree of goodness can consist with obstinate bigotry, blind superstition, severe and tyrannical oppression, Laud might come in for a share; yet it is to be remembered, that one of the greatest among mankind, who had once been under the same influence, speaks of himself, on this very account, as the chief of sinners, at the same time that he says, he did it ignorantly, in unbelief. Neither would we compare Cranmer and Laud as to zeal for religion: that of the former was generally of the rational and benevolent kind; that of the latter, ignorant and haughty, abusive and destructive. And as to the last article, in what reformation was Laud engaged? unless it was to throw us back into the arms of popery, or what is as bad, into high-church dominion and arbitrary government? We can by no means place Cranmer and Laud in the same rank; and we ought

to add, though Mr. Gilpin unites them in the above particulars, he seems, in what he afterwards says, to intend rather a contrast, than a comparison, while he mentions the different temper and measures by which each pursued their respective ends; the one with violence and heat, the other with caution and moderation, “ The consequence was (it is added) that Laud did nothing which he attempted, while Cranmer did every thing.”

We have perused this volume with much satisfaction, as well as entertainment. It would be easy to select anecdotes and passages that would amuse our readers. One, as it is not very long, relative to Cranmer, we will here insert: “ His humility was truly apostolical. He was averse to the sounding titles of the clergy; and when these things, among others, were settled, he would often say, “ We might well do without them.” A familiar expression of his, on an occasion of this kind, was often afterwards remembered. He had signed himself in some public instrument, as he was obliged indeed legally to do, by the style of *Primate of all England*. At this the Bishop of Winchester (Gardiner) took great offence; intimating that there was no necessity for that innovation; and throwing out a hint as if it were an encroachment on the King’s supremacy. “ God knows (said the Archbishop, when he heard of the invidious things which Winchester had said) I value the title of Primate no more than I do the *parings of an apple*.” The expression was afterwards often quoted by those who were disinclined to all dignities in the church; which they would call in contempt the *parings of Cranmer’s apples*.” Many other instances are given of his amiable and worthy spirit.

The style of this book is pleasing; the materials are judiciously collected, and well arranged. The works of Strype have afforded great assistance. To Fox’s *Acts and Monuments*, Mr. Gilpin often has recourse; and he speaks handsomely of that work, though far from being an elegant performance: “ yet (says he) they who have examined

mined this writer with most accuracy, have acknowledged, that although his zeal may have led him into some exaggerated accounts, where he relies only on hearsay, yet in all matters, where he appeals to authority, or record, he may be fully depended on." He was principal corrector to a printing-house at Basil (one of the greatest in Europe)

and a man of astonishing industry.— In fine, Mr. Gilpin will certainly be esteemed for the candour, the impartiality, and the love of truth and liberty, which he discovers throughout the whole of this performance: and which he had before manifested, in his former productions.

ART. CXIX. *Scheme for reducing, and finally redeeming the National Debt, and for gaining Half a Million of Revenue, by Extinguishing a Tax.* 8vo. 1s. Dodley, &c. 1784.

THE tax alluded to in this paradoxical title page, is the land-tax, the equalizing of which, the author argues against as an unjust measure; that would impose a heavy burden on the landholders in the north, while those in the south, by paying less than before, would put the decrease into their own pockets, without answering any beneficial purpose to the nation. This tax, in its present form, he affirms to be no burden on the possessors of land, but a perpetual rent-charge that is considered and allowed for in all purchases: and that all the lands in the kingdom changing their owners, upon an average, every thirty years, whether by descent, devise, settlement, or alienation, not affecting the argument, there are few, if any landholders, whose estates were not subject to this tax, before they came into the possession of them. From these premises having established it as a clear proposition, which we will not controvert, that the land-tax is the undoubted property of the public, the scheme of converting it to the public use will appear in the following passage:

" The tax produces, or ought to produce, more than two millions annually—any excess would render my plan more productive, but I will state it only at two millions.

" Now admitting this sum of two millions to be a perpetual annual rent-charge, issuing out of all the landed or real property of the united kingdoms, and payable to the public in preference to every other charge, it will follow that the public has an undoubted right to make sale of this perpetuity, clear of every incumbrance. In such a sale,

every individual landholder should have an opportunity of purchasing the tax upon his own estate, in preference to any other person, provided it was done in a time to be limited; and after the expiration of that time, the public at large should be at liberty to purchase, either absolutely or by way of mortgage: and since estates are in general sold from 25 to 30 years purchase, it may be fairly concluded, that the sale of the tax would produce, upon an average, at least twenty-five years purchase, more especially as the execution of this plan would, to a certainty, raise the value of lands not less than four or five years purchase.

" The public purse would be thus at once enriched with a sum of fifty millions sterling, equal to the redemption of $8\frac{1}{3}$ millions of the three per cents. taking the price of the stock at sixty per cent. which exceeds the present price.

" The annual interest of $8\frac{1}{3}$ millions, the debt thus redeemed, would be extinguished, which at 3 per cent. is $2,500,000$

" From which, deducting the annual amount of the land-tax extinguished, being $2,000,000$

" The annual revenue gained will amount to £. 500,000 While a plan of redemption remains unprovided for, the author observes, that the stocks will continue to fall even lower than they are now, that the adoption of any scheme of reducing the national debt, would as certainly raise them; and without pro-
per

per measures to prevent such a rise, defeat the advantages expected from this scheme. To this end, he proposes, that the act of parliament for effecting a sale of the land-tax, should declare the price of the last previous transfer of every person's share of stock, and should be recorded and fixed as the par of redemption; leaving all future transfers at freedom.

The half million of annual revenue gained, is to form a sinking fund for the reduction of the remainder of the debt; and if another half million could be added to it, and faithfully applied, aided by the excess of subsisting taxes beyond the annual interest of the debt; such a fund would redeem the whole debt in forty-one years: an annual million and a half would redeem it in less than thirty-four years; and two millions would redeem it in less than thirty years.

Taking into consideration the very great chance of an intervening war, the author thinks no redemption ought to be undertaken, with a less annual sum than two millions. If in order to establish such a surplus, more money should be wanted, he observes, and we beg the reader would observe it also, that the execution of his plan would clear the ground for an equal land-tax; which, at sixpence in the pound, would raise at least half a million!

ART. CXX. *A Dissertation on Duelling.* Published by Appointment, as having gained a Prize (May 1784) in the University of Cambridge. By Richard Hey, LL.D. Fellow of Magdalen Hall. 8vo. 1s. 6d. Cadell, &c.

THE decision of personal quarrels by single combat, with deadly weapons, in which superior strength, skill, or even chance, are the only tests appealed to for the decision of right (and in which the party injured in the first instance, if reduced to beg his life, if irrecoverably lamed, or killed on the spot, is declared to have received satisfaction) is such an insult upon common sense, that it is perfectly consistent to find common sense rejected, and the practice supported by a peculiar childish code of its own, under the name of the *laws of honour*.

Were it not that this species of infatuation sometimes produces such se-

The sixpenny land-tax, it is true, is by supposition only to be temporary; but when the author has, according to his scheme, fairly sold the land-tax to the landholder, for twenty-five or thirty years purchase, and when he has informed us, that at four shillings in the pound, it only amounts to four pence, in the northern parts of the kingdom; can it bear an honest aspect, to propose instantly to load these northern purchasers with a sixpenny tax for the very term that they have just paid for exonerated from one of four-pence? The author, however, does not see this palpable injustice (what name would be given to it in private life?) but surrendering the present generation to pillage, adds with great apathy, that this tax "might cease at the end of thirty years; and if even the necessities of the state should require its longer continuance, yet in that space all the lands in the kingdom will, at a medium, have changed their owners, and received new possessors, and, consequently, for the reasons before given, such new possessors would not be affected by it."

We did not expect to arrive at such a conclusion, when we took up a proposal for gaining half a million of revenue by extinguishing a tax.

rious consequences, it might be deemed a prostitution of the powers of reason to argue with those who are subject to its influence; but the many fatal catastrophes thus resulting from the most frivolous causes, frequently prompt thinking men to address arguments to a set of Quixottes, on the only subject perhaps that, like the hero of *La Mancha*, discomposes their intellects.

If these self-avengers were in general found to be men of the clearest and most extensive understanding, and of the most exemplary conduct, their errors might claim some degree of respect; but men of current honour are seldom close thinkers; and, generally, form

from a dissipated course of life, become such superficial observers, that Dr. Hey may be fairly presumed to attack their principles with arguments beyond their comprehension, even if we were to suppose them willing to attend to his reasoning. It is far more natural, however, to suppose one of these gentlemen, after reading the title, and perhaps a few lines of the first paragraph, to toss the pamphlet from him cavalierly, with "damn the collegian, and his dissertation too!" In brief, this accurate performance may be classed among those that convince every reader, except the very people for whose use the author took up the pen.

The law of England views not only the combatants, but their seconds, in the character of persons engaged in the act of deliberate murder; or, in other words, is so unpolite as to deem men of irascible honour deserving of a halter; though, as our author observes, juries are generally too tender to bestow this reward on them. But since the *fear* of disgrace is one of the pleas for having recourse to a duel, and since by mistaken lenity the present law has lost its terrors, it might perhaps be of service to make such antagonists sure of meeting disgrace in the most fearful form at the place of combat, whether the actors exhibit there a tragedy or a farce. Highway-robery, house-breaking, and duelling, are all acts of desperation; and we see what is deemed the highest penalty of the law, is too weak to restrain either of them: but there are higher penalties than death suited to each of them. We well know that robbers would rather be hanged at once, than endure a life of labour; and the honour of duellists is of so tender a kind, that they will brave both instant and judicial death, sooner than endure what they esteem disgrace. Suppose then all the parties engaged in a duel, or in sending a challenge, were, without mitigation, subjected to the pillory, and all the future disabilities attendant on such a sentence, which would reduce the merits of every transaction of this nature to a summary issue; sup-

pose also, as in the case with persons standing mute, that the act of flying the country were to incur conviction; it is probable that very little blood would afterward be shed in affairs of honour.

After having been thus far seduced from the immediate consideration of this treatise, to engage as auxiliaries in its general subject, we return to our direct duty, by declaring, that though the circumstance of gaining a prize from competitors is rather an evidence of comparative, than of positive excellence, yet this dissertation has the real merit of containing a full, critical, and judicious examination of the principles on which the practice of duels is founded and vindicated.

The subject has not that novelty in it that will justify our appropriating much room to Dr. Hey's performance. To our general approbation of his close reasoning, we shall therefore only specify the heads under which he treats it. These are, Duelling considered, with reference to equity between individuals; with reference to the good order of society; to courage; to magnanimity; to virtue in general; and with reference to honour. In all these points of view, the absurdity of duels is shewn with much ability and address. We shall now gratify our readers with a detached specimen of his style and language.

After a very particular scrutiny into the virtue of courage; and proving that degree of it which prompts men to duelling, to be of a very low and inferior kind, the superiority of mind, termed magnanimity, is described in the following citation:

"Magnanimity is seen in overlooking some things as trifles, which affect many persons as evils deserving their serious regard. Whether they proceed from accident, from the inattention of the careless, from the rude impertinence of an inferior, or the mean pride of a superior, the great mind looks down upon them with a cool neglect which disarms them of all power to hurt him. We would not be understood to recommend a total insensibility under designed affronts;

but there are certainly many appearances of this kind, which it is more manly and noble to pass by without any notice at all. Sometimes what has the appearance of an intended affront, is in reality purely accidental; at other times it is owing to nothing worse than inadvertence; and even when designed, it may have some excuse from the heat of passion, from misapprehension, or wrong information. Nay, where none of these can be urged in excuse for it, still there is often so low a degree of bad intention, so little virulence existing in the mind of the person offending, that, if the offended person could but look in the other's breast without the intervention of any deceitful medium, he would be surprised to find how small the object was which had formed so large a picture upon his imagination. Now it is a property of this greatness of soul which we are contemplating, that it enables a man to enter simply and with ease into the feelings and passions of others, without discovering any thing worse in those passions when directed against himself, than when directed against an indifferent person. By his enlarged conception, he comprehends the whole of mankind in one view, and sees himself only as a single individual among that vast multitude.

" How will the captious and quarrelsome bear the test of a comparison with this character? Does any one pride himself upon the maxim of never putting up an affront? It is not the maxim of a great mind. What is a single person, that he must require all others, in every situation, in the eagerness of business, in the career of pleasure, in the absent moment of distracting care, in the dejected season of grief and melancholy, to be always so guarded and so attentive to *him*, as to be guilty of nothing which can be construed into an affront? A transgression of etiquette, a haughty look, a particular emphasis in pronouncing words otherwise harmless, are offences against the majesty of a self-important being, such as cannot be passed over unnoticed. They must either be immediately expiated with blood; or, if

some of the slightest kind are not judged to require so severe an atonement, they are at least carefully registered in the memory, that, if further occasion offers, they may be brought to account. And when a person has been so unhappy as to irritate a captious man, by a number of these minute offences which are scarcely capable of being estimated or described; it is sometimes thought necessary by the offended person to put a direct and unequivocal affront upon the original offender, for the mere purpose of bringing matters to extremities.

" Where is the magnanimity of all this minuteness and precision, in exacting whatever a man thinks to be due to him? Though we should allow that he does not exact any thing more than what in strictness is his due; yet, to act upon such a system as this, is to forget the universal imperfection of every thing human, and to set up one's *self* as an object to which the world is required to pay an attention greater than it pays, or can be expected to pay, to the generality of individuals.

" But let us now imagine a great and substantial injury offered; such that no man can be supposed insensible of it without a reproach upon his feelings, and such as both the safety of the individual and the good of the public require to be punished, in order to prevent a repetition of it. That duelling is totally improper as the means of reparation or punishment, with respect both to the individual and the public, we have attempted to shew in the first and second parts of this dissertation. Therefore the only enquiry here is, how far it is agreeable to true greatness of mind, to fight a duel from the mere impulse of resentment, distinct from all rational views of reparation, or an equitable and useful punishment.

" Resentment, thus separated from every good motive, is no other than the mere spirit of *revenge*: which is entirely the vice of a little mind, and a direct contrast to that generosity of sympathy which prompts us to rejoice in the happiness of others, and to weep

weep over their distress. Revenge may suit the confined and abject notions of a savage, who lives in a state of perpetual war with men and brutes, and whose highest ideas of happiness and glory rise not higher than to victory over an enemy. But a civilized education teaches men, with the absurd exception only of those cases in which the reputed point of honour is concerned, to suppress every indication of this passion, to lay aside all ferocity of manners, to shew a forwardness in conferring favours, and an abhorrence of committing an injury, nay even to express a constant attention to the in-

terests and the feelings of others, studious at the same time to betray no anxiety about their own. And it is astonishing to see men, who, in their ordinary behaviour, demonstrate a great and generous turn of mind, recurring suddenly, for a single purpose, for a single action, to the mean and contemptible principles of the untutored barbarian."

In conclusion, the vicious propensity to duelling would not require to be exposed in this elaborate manner, if *affairs of honour* were not treated with too much respect in the criminal courts.

THE ENGLISH THEATRE, AND REGISTER OF PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENTS.

COVENT-GARDEN.

April 2.

THE comedy of *Fashionable Levities*, written by Mr. Macnally, author of Robin Hood, Retaliation, &c. was performed for the first time at this theatre: the characters of which were represented as follow:

Alldear	Mr. Henderson.
De Courcy (alias Well-bred)	Mr. Lewis.
Douglas	Mr. Wroughton.
Sir Buzzard Savage	Mr. Quick.
Robin	Mr. Edwin.
Cheaterly (a gambler)	Mr. Farren.
Colonel Staff	Mr. Weewitzer.
Clara	Mrs. Martyr.
Grace	Mrs. Wilson.
Widow	Mrs. Bates.
Honour	Mrs. Webb.
Constance	Mrs. T. Kennedy.
Muslin	Miss Platt.
Lady Buzzard	Miss Younge.

The fable of this comedy is full of those intricacies, that are necessary to keep the mind in a state of suspense. The following is a sketch of the plan.—Sir Buzzard, rather advanced in life, from pecuniary connections with a family, of what is commonly called *noble* blood, is inveigled into marriage with one of its relatives, a young lady educated in the true spirit of fashion; mutual dislike ensues from different motives; the wife from being married to

a man she has no affection for; the husband from being wedded to a woman whose extravagance dissipates his fortune, he emerges in the follies of the turf, and she in the *levities*, cards, dress, equipage, and even strongly bordering on incontinence; from the latter, they are both the dupes of a gambler, who, in *course* of cards, getting both in his power, demands their joint interest to favour his pretences to Constance, niece and ward to Sir Buzzard (previously enamoured of De Courcy) with whom he is to share her fortune on marriage, as likewise to cancel a debt of honour with her ladyship of 2000. the agreement of both unknown to the other.—De Courcy, equally attached to Constance, but addicted to the like folly of gambling, is fleeced by the same gambler; but in the course of his distress, though he courts every transient amour, preserves his *faith* inviolate to Constance; his appearance and levity successively engage him in intrigues with Lady Savage, her chambermaid, and the widow, from a detection in which he generally escapes by the dramatic subterfuge of a closet, but is, in the end, after many impediments, rewarded with the hand of Constance, when his fortune is bettered 2000. a year, and his name changed to Wellbred by the *convenient* death of

an uncle.—The counterpart of the plot arises from Alldear, a philosophic left-off tradesman, attached to the innocent Clara, daughter of a deceased friend, to whom he becomes the voluntary guardian and expectant husband; but anxious for her improvement in the *dead* languages, having engaged a Scotch officer, disguised as a tutor, to instruct her, is supplanted by the Caledonian, who learns her lessons of love instead of grammar. Colonel Staff also, in pursuit of the widow, or rather her fortune, after an awkward carried on siege, is Hymenally tied.

Many of the scenes require the author's attention towards a better connection being preserved; some of them should be considerably abridged; those in the first act are in particular too long. Much comic effect is diffused through the piece; but the author has too freely indulged himself in giving indelicate points. The disapprobation of the audience to the passages we allude to will be an ample standard to remedy this and the other defects by; and we doubt not but he will avail himself of the criterion.

Several of the thoughts were *nouvelles* and judicious; and were received with deserved favour.—The performers were in their respective parts very meritorious. Mr. Lewis was volatility, spirit, and fashion in the highest degree, and to his able representation the author owes much. The same may be said of Miss Younge; she played with the utmost success, and was dressed with great elegance.

The prologue was ably spoken by Mr. Wroughton, and the epilogue had a very forcible effect from the pointed delivery of Miss Younge. It contrasted the manners of our ancestors with modern refinements, and concluded with a compliment to her Majesty.

April 12. The new opera of *The Nunnery* was brought forward at this theatre; the characters and fable are as undermentioned:

Captain Banner	Mr. Johnstone.
Forage	Mr. Quick.
Peter	Mr. Edwin.

Father Ambrose	Mr. Fearon.
Officer of the police	Mr. Davies.
Friar	Mr. Darley.
Mrs. D'Arcy	Mrs. Kennedy.
Selina	Mrs. Bannister.
Teresa	Mrs. Martyr.
Abbeſſeſ	Miss Platt.

F A B L E.

Captain Banner, an English officer, during a short residence at Tournay in the Austrian Netherlands, becomes enamoured of Selina, the niece of Mrs. D'Arcy.—He suddenly receives orders while here, to join his regiment at Gibraltar; and takes his departure without receiving any proof that his addresses are acceptable to the object of his passion.

The drama commences with a scene of Captain Banner's return.—Upon his landing, he determines to bring the affections of Selina to trial; and in that resolution dispatches Forage, his servant, who relates to her a fabricated story of his death. The concern she appears in upon hearing this intelligence, is unpleasing to Mrs. D'Arcy, whose design is to have Selina united with her son Henry, at this time on his travels.—To avoid this alliance, Selina flies to a convent, entrusting her maid Teresa only with the secret.—Captain Banner hearing of this resolution, contrives by means of Peter, the porter of the convent, to have a letter conveyed to Selina. The agitation she is in on reading this epistle, is such, that the abbess discovers the contents; and by that means comes at the knowledge of Mrs. D'Arcy, who is in consequence made acquainted with the transaction.—It is here necessary to remark, that by the will of Selina's father it is decreed, that on condition she chooses a religious life, one moiety of her fortune is to be applied to the benefit of the Nunnery to which she retires, and the other to descend to Mrs. D'Arcy's son. This consideration stimulates Mrs. D'Arcy and the abbess to use means to retain Selina in the convent; and to enforce their entreaties, Father Ambrose, the confessor of Mrs. D'Arcy, is directed to visit her. This intention being discovered by Captain Banner, he assumes

fumes his habit; and by means of Teresa is enabled to deliver the letter of introduction, which had been intended for the real confessor, Peter, the porter of the convent, assists in this project. Banner has, in consequence, an interview with Selina in the abbess's apartment, but is shortly interrupted by Father Ambrose, who discovers the stratagem, and proceeds to alarm the convent. Banner prevents him, and afterwards succeeds in prevailing on

the good father to unite him with Selina. At the close of the ceremony, he attempts to escape, but is stopped by some officers of the police. He is charged with seducing a novice from the cloister, and marrying her; but it being at the same moment announced that the Emperor has just published an ordinance, by which all religious houses are declared open; they are set at liberty, and a general reconciliation takes place.

MR. PARKE'S CONCERT.

Ancient Music Rooms.

THE Concert consisted of a very elegant assemblage of vocal and instrumental performances; amongst these, we must notice Mr. Parke's beautiful oboe concerto; the second movement of which, equally discovered his scientific taste and instrumental skill. Miss Parke played one of Clementi's sonatas on the piano forte, in a most brilliant style; we must observe on this composition that it is of masterly construction, and full of difficult passages, but more a treat to the *cognoscenti* than to a miscellaneous audience. Pieltain's concerto on the violin was executed with great neatness, and was upon the whole a pleasing unaffected performance. The charming Sestetto of Bach's, in which Miss Parke and the Messrs. Pieltain, Shield, Paxton,

and Parke combined their powers, was a delectable feast to the *amateurs*.

The vocal pieces were the two following glees: "Come live with me," &c. and Dr. Cooke's "In the merry month of May." Mr. Reinhold having left behind him the parts of Handel's song "Nace al bosco," &c. sung the Invocation to the Spring. Miss Parke acquitted herself with great sweetness in one of Sarti's airs; but particular praise is due to Mr. Harrison for the expressive and pleasing style in which he sung his second air of "From glaring show," &c. Upon the whole, the friends of Mr. Parke testified the utmost satisfaction at the judicious selection with which they were presented.

HANOVER-SQUARE CONCERT.

April 6. THE first piece was Abel's admirable overture, which, being in his best style, can be equalled by few. Miss Chanu sung "Dolce vita," &c. with expression, but in the rondeau, "Nel partire bell' idol mio," by Bach, she discovered very superior power and elegance. Tenducci also sung two divine airs, with great taste and expression. Correlli's eleventh concerto had every justice done to it. Garioldi gave the second movement great force, by his able performance on the double bass. Baumgarten's new *concertante* was played with great effect:

no other proof of excellence of the performance need be given, than the mention of the names of Messrs. Cramer, Blake, Cervetto, and Fisher. In respect to the composition, it is full of science and ingenious construction. Mr. Salomon played a concerto on the violin, with every claim to approbation. The concert closed with a symphony of Haydn's, and to say a word of his merit in this work, would be placing him on a level with other masters, whilst every note in the composition gives him a superior plea to distinction.

We are happy to compliment the managers of this concert, on the proofs they continually give of their disposi-
tion to present the subscribers with every novelty in their power.

MASQUERADE INTELLIGENCE.

OPERA-HOUSE.

THIS spot was fitted up in a most superb style for the reception of the masques. Party-coloured lamps disposed with great fancy, transparent devices, elegant Italian girandoles, and artificial pannels, all combined to the decoration of the place.

The company was the most genteel we ever remember at a masquerade. It was a convention of dominos, broke by a few light fancy dresses, worn by ladies, and a very small portion of characters. Men of fashion and ladies of frolic made up the assembly. The Prince, Duke of Queensberry, Lord Jersey, Colonel Lake, Mr. W. Lake, Mr. Bradyl, Captain Conway, Colonel Tarleton, Major Hanger, Sir John Lade, &c. with the Mesdames Benwell, Smith, Fisher, and Seymour; Clara, Maria, and the entire *cherubim* of King's-Place, headed by the *bierarch*, Mrs. Windsor. Lord T— hung on the Prince's arm, strangely arrayed.

He called himself the favourite beauty of the Emperor of Morocco. An old woman with gingerbread. A lady in representation of night, covered with a black veil and stars. Two dancing negro women. A Carmelite monk. A hunched-back barber, and two or three others of an inferior stamp. Mr. L—x was without either domino or mask; but notwithstanding his want of dress, he was considered as the *greatest character* present.

A good country dance band was provided, but the parties who *figured in* were very limited in number.

The supper consisted of a plenteous supply of curious dishes, all very excellent; confectionary and pastry in abundance, and wines of the best flavour in a variety, that included most of the French and other vintages. The utmost satisfaction was expressed at this midnight fete, and the order in which it was served.

OPERA-HOUSE.

April 2. First night of the new comic opera *La Finta Principezza*, or the Sham Princefs.

We were by no means disappointed in the expectations we had framed of Signor Cherubini's abilities as a composer. His *coup d'essai*, as it was humbly stiled in the operatical bill of fare, proved a complete master-piece. We have, indeed, from the overture to the end of this composition, an ample field for great and merited encomium; but as *brevity is the soul of wit*, we also consider it as the essence of judicious praise. In deference to this opinion, we shall only point out those parts of the music which met with pointed applause; such as, in the first act, *L'Onda Placida*, and *Quel amabile Vifino*, both sung by Franchi. The air *Altezza Excellentissima*, by Tasca, and the finale,

the best productions of the kind that ever gave brilliancy to a comic opera. In the last act we were particularly delighted by Tasca's song, in caricature, *Idol mio se tu non vivi*, a true *chef d'œuvre* of comic composition, greatly enhanced by the delivery of the actor, and only equalled by the exertions of Signora Dorta, in the airs *A tanto amore* and *Come potesti ingrato Core*. The entertainments of the evening concluded with that beautiful ballet *Don Juan*, the representation of which made the whole performance a delicious treat, both for the eyes and ears of a very numerous audience, whose incessant plaudits are the best comment on the merit of the respective composers.

April 16. The opera of *Artaserse*, confessedly the best production of Metastasio, was received this night, for the

the purpose of introducing to the musical world the new tenor, Signor Babini. The reception he met with from a very numerous and brilliant audience was equally flattering and merited. Though this performer cannot be said to possess a very great compass of voice, this defect is supplied by a taste and manner of singing superior to that of any of his predecessors in that walk; add to this a good figure, a style of acting seldom met with on the Italian stage, ever true to the feeling of the character he represents; and we shall have conveyed an idea, though still very imperfect of the merit of Signor Babini. It is impossible, for instance, to conceive any thing equal to the manner in which he delivered his first song *Del mio paterno affetto*. How me-

lodious! how affecting! His plaintive accents made every heart sympathize with the distressed father of Arbaces. The cry of *encore* was unanimous; indeed he richly deserved to have the same compliment paid to him throughout the whole performance. Signor Crescentini was better than ever, and he went through the song *Ab! non sai qual Pena Sia*, with so much pathos, that he made the sorrows of Arbaces congenial to the breast of every person present. Signora Ferrarese, now nearly recovered from her long illness, was all we could wish in Mandane. As to the music, the overture was received with pointed applause, and Signor Cherubini convinced us, that he is equally judicious in compiling, as he is commendable for original composition.

INCREASE OF THE REVENUE.

ON Monday the 11th inst. Mr. Pitt stated in the House of Commons that the interest of the public debt (when the whole of it shall have been funded and provided for) together with the probable expences of the peace establishment, will amount to 14,400,000l.

The net produce of the Taxes for the quarter ending 5th of January, 1785, was 2,738,000
 Ditto for the quarter ending 5th of April — 3,066,000
 —————— £. 5,804,000

The produce of the two corresponding quarters in the preceding year was to the 5th of January 1784 2,585,000
 To the 5th of April, 1784. 2,198,000
 —————— £. 4,783,000

The produce, therefore, of the taxes in the last six months, was above a million more than their produce in the corresponding six months of the preceding year, and the produce of the single quarter, ending the 5th of April last, was nearly 870,000l. more than that of the corresponding quarter 1784. In this sum are included about 190,000l. the produce of the taxes laid on the last year; the remaining sum of 680,000l. is the increased produce of the taxes which subsisted previous to the last session. It is likewise to be observed, that the produce of the customs in the last quarter, was considerably more than double their produce in the corresponding quarter of the last year. This considerable increase of the revenue must, in a great measure, be owing to the many regulations which have been established since Mr. Pitt has been in office, and principally to those bills which he introduced into parliament last year, for the prevention of smuggling. The effect of

these regulations, exclusive of the assistance which the revenue may receive from others of a similar nature, encourages us to entertain a well grounded hope, not only that the income of the country may become equal to the payment of the interest of our national debt, and the expences of the peace establishment, but that it may afford a considerable surplus for the discharge of the national debt. For let us suppose that the two next quarters produce, each the same sum, which the last quarter did, the income of the year, ending Michaelmas, 1785, will then stand thus:

The quarter ending Jan. 5, 1785	2,738,000
Ditto, April 5,	3,066,000
The two remaining quarters	6,132,000
Total	12,936,000

To this sum must be added the produce of the land-tax, and annual malt tax

2,450,000

£. 14,386,000

This produce of all the taxes is sufficient for the interest of the public debt, both funded and unfunded, and for the expences of a peace establishment.

But, if we look beyond the present year, and estimate our annual income, by the last quarter, it will stand thus:

Annual produce of taxes	12,264,000
Add produce of land and malt-tax	2,450,000

Total £. 14,714,000

which leaves a surplus of 300,000l. a year towards the discharge of the national debt.

But if we suppose that the produce of the two remaining quarters of the present year bears the same proportion to the produce of those already passed, which the corresponding quarters of the

last year did to each other, the amount of the taxes of this year will be 12,600,000l. to this must be added for the land and annual malt tax 2,450,000l. and our whole income will be 15,050,000l. which leaves 650,000l. surplus for a sinking fund.

If the two remaining quarters bear the same proportion to the last quarter, which these quarters did to each other in the preceding year, the produce of all the taxes will be 16,240,000l. which leaves a surplus of 1,840,000l. for a sinking fund.

The produce of all the taxes, exclusive of the land and malt tax, for the year ending Michaelmas, 1784, was 10,400,000l. the increase of the revenue this year, upon the most unfavourable calculation, will be a million and a half: there is good reason to believe that it will be considerably more.

From the above statements it appears that there is the strongest reason to hope that next year a real sinking fund for the actual discharge of the national debt will be established, and that this salutary measure may be adopted with the addition only of those few taxes which may be necessary for the small loan of the present year, and for the funding the remaining part of the unfunded debt.

In the above account, the produce of the new house duty is not included, as none of it has yet been received; this duty cannot amount to less than 500,000l. a year, which must more than counterbalance any accidental diminution which there may be in any of the taxes in a subsequent quarter.

Thus far the ministerial statement, which will be still farther illustrated by reference to the following papers which are now lying upon the table of the House of Commons, for the perusal of the members.

An account of the produce of the several taxes imposed by an act of the last session of parliament, as far as the same can be made up; distinguishing the produce of each tax.

	L. s. d.
Received on the duty on silk and lead	13,415 12 4
On paper since 11th day of Aug.	3,235 12 0
On candles since 1st of Aug.	46,168 2 6
On general licences since 10th Sept.	42,082 0 0
On 15l. per cent. since 11th Aug.	1,012 0 0
On linens and stuffs since 2d Oct.	3,085 0 0
On bricks and tiles since 2d Sept.	20,170 3 8

On the additional duty on hackney coaches	4,800 0 0
On additional stamps since 1st Sept.	113,411 0 0
On 2,300l. per week, letter money	43,700 0 0

L. 291,109 10 6

Memorandum. Besides the above duties, for payment of annuities granted in the year 1784, the duty on coffee has produced

232 2 6

Exchequer 15th day of

April, 1785. JOHN HUGHSON.

An account of the totals of the net produce of all the taxes, from Christmas eve, 1783, to the 5th day of April, 1784, and from Christmas eve, 1784, to the 5th day of April, 1785.

C U S T O M S.

Total to the 5th April, 1784 L. 419,915 0 6½

Total to the 5th April, 1785 990,209 14 7½

E X C I S E.

Total to the 5th April,

1784 — L. 1,292,220 3 6

Total to the 5th April,

1785 — 1,312,612 6 10

S T A M P S.

Total to 5th April, 1784 L. 222,421 17 4

Total to 5th April, 1785 320,336 0 0

I N C I D E N T S.

Total to 5th April, 1784 L. 263,419 3 10

Total to 5th April, 1785 373,097 16 8½

Total of Customs, Excise,

Stamps, and Incidents, to 5th April, 1784 2,198,006 5 2½

Grand total of Customs, Excise, Stamps, and Incidents, to the 5th April,

1785 — 3,066,255 18 2

Exchequer, the 15th day of April, 1785. JOHN HUGHSON.

An account of the totals of payments into the Exchequer, by the Receiver-general of the Customs, from Lady-day, 1780, to Lady-day, 1785, both inclusive.

1780 — L. 2,495,270 5 2

1781 — 2,627,643 4 11

1782 — 2,636,536 15 2½

1783 — 2,983,574 2 4½

1784 — 2,654,757 7 2½

1785 — 3,719,405 6 7

For WILLIAM MELLISH, Esq. Rec. Gen. T. MILLS.

LENT ASSISES.

THE following list of felons capitally convicted on the respective circuits, exhibits a striking picture of the vice of the present age. The first column of figures shows the number sentenced; the second, those left for execution at each place.—Where there is no figure the number could not be ascertained.

Kingston	21	9	Worcester	5	1
Lincoln	12	9	Huntingdon	1	1
Gloucester	16	9	Lewes	5	1

Warwick	15	7	Leicester	2	1
Exeter	17	6	Thetford	7	1
Winchester	16	6	Lancaster	6	1
Shrewsbury	11	5	Salisbury	14	0
Norwich	0	4	Dorchester	5	0
Nottingham	8	4	Bedford	2	0
Derby	5	3	Reading	2	0
York	7	3	Coventry	3	0
Chelmsford	0	2	Taunton	6	0
Aylesbury	3	2	Hereford	10	0

Cambridge

Cambridge	3	2	Chester	1	1
Bury	7	2	Stafford	7	
Montgomery	5	2	Ludlow	7	Maiden.
Northampton	6	1	Oakham		

The island to which the convicts, sentenced to be transported to Africa, are to be conveyed, is said to lie in the middle of the River Gambia, about sixty miles from its entrance into the ocean. This spot is totally uninhabited. Captain Moore, who explored the course of the Gambia as far as the great waterfalls, 100 leagues up the country, speaks of this island as twenty miles in length, and from five to seven in breadth.—Towards the east end it rises into a hill of considerable height, and is finely covered with wood. The soil is remarkably fertile, and wants nothing but cultivation to become productive in all kinds of grain. In the woods are found great plenty of cocoa-nut trees and chestnuts. As it stands in the 13th degree

of N. Latitude, the heat in the months of July and August is very great; and towards the Equinox they experience frequently dreadful storms of thunder and lightening. The country on each side of the river is peopled by warlike Negro nations, who sacrifice to their idol deities such white men as fall into their hands, and whose bodies they devour, which will prevent their deserting from the place allotted for them.

That transportation even under these circumstances will have much effect in deterring from crimes which the terrors of an ignominious death cannot prevent, is not very probable. While our police is directed to the punishing rather than to the prevention of crimes, it is in vain that our prisons are so often *emptied into the grave*. At present a few only of the most atrocious offenders are to be sent to the coast of Africa: the transportation of the rest is suspended.

THE MONTHLY CHRONOLOGY.

THURSDAY, March 24.

EARLY this morning a fire broke out at the house of J. Ward, gent. at Rhos-Fawr, near Llanfair, Montgomeryshire, when all were in profound sleep. A tenant lived in one part of the house, whose servant maid was first alarmed by the raging of the flames, just time enough to wake her mistress, who was sick, and whom she carried upon her back out of the house. Before she could alarm her master, or Mr. and Mrs. Ward, the whole building was in a blaze, which was entirely consumed to ashes, together with the owners and tenant. Mr. and Mrs. Ward were far advanced in years, and the tenant who perished with them, is supposed to have been suffocated in his sleep.—The corn, cattle, and out-buildings, being at a distance, escaped the conflagration.

FRIDAY, 25.

Henry Jones and Matthew Price, two sheriff's officers, were executed at Monmouth, for the wilful murder of Richard Jones, of Tregare, an old man, upwards of 70 years of age, whom they were conducting under arrest to Monmouth jail. It appeared upon the trial that they had broke two of his ribs, and beat him so inhumanly that he died under their hands.

SUNDAY, 27,

Being Easter-Sunday, the same was observed at court as a high festival. At one o'clock their Majesties, preceded by the heralds and pursuivants went in state to the Chapel-Royal, and heard divine service and a sermon, which was preached by the Rev. Dr. Vincent, Sub-Almoner; Lord Oxford carried the sword of state; after which their Majesties received the sacrament from the hands of the Bishop of Chester (who assisted for the Bishop of London) assisted by the Sub-Dean, and made the usual offering.

In the evening a man was decoyed into a house of ill fame, in Clement's-lane, near Butcher-row, where he was robbed, and afterwards stabbed in seven different parts of the body, by a person styling himself the husband of the prostitute, who decoyed the unfortunate man

LOND. M.A.C. April 1785.

in. The cry of Murder! being given, a number of persons assembled round the door, by which means both the man and the woman were taken into custody.

MONDAY, 28.

This afternoon, at five o'clock, a dreadful fire broke out in the house of Earl Spencer, at Wimbledon, which, for want of water, entirely destroyed the house, and the most valuable part of the furniture. Many of the pictures were saved. The state chariot of the celebrated John Duke of Marlborough was among other antiquities that became victims to the flames. It was in this carriage that he brought the Mareschal Tallard, the French general, when he fell into the hands of the combined army, after the celebrated battle of Oudenarde. The Duke's dispatches on that occasion are worthy of record, as they were exceeding short and laconick:

"We have fought and conquered, and I have the French general, Monsieur le Mareschal Tallard, at this time with me in my chariot. Let my royal mistress be immediately acquainted with these particulars, and expect more as soon as possible."

The paper on which the above was written, was the back of the direction of an old letter to the Duke, and it was written on a drum head, or, as others say, on a soldier's back.

The house was built by Sarah, Duchess of Marlborough, the great grandmother of the present lord, and cost thirty-eight thousand pounds, besides the furniture, library, &c.

The accident, it seems, was occasioned by the carelessness of some of the women servants, who left some linen too near the fire in the laundry.

FRIDAY, April 1.

The winter season, to date it from the first fall of snow in October last, to that which fell yesterday, has already lasted five months and twenty-four days, or one hundred and seventy-six days in all, reckoning from the 7th day of October, on which the first fall of snow hap-

gined. If we except about twelve days at the latter end of January, the whole of this period has been frosty and snowy; such another instance has not occurred in the memory of man in this island.

FRIDAY, 8.

William Herbert was committed to Reading jail, charged on an inquisition taken the same day at Letcombe Regis in Berks, with the wilful murther of his own son, a lad about fourteen years of age. It appears that Herbert had sent the boy on an errand to Letcombe Regis, and on his staying longer than he thought necessary, he went in search of him, threatening to murther him. The boy, who had been long ill, had stopped in a barn to rest himself about half way to Letcomb, which he had left but a few minutes when the father came up with him, struck him several times, and drove him on before him: when they got near Letcomb, he knocked him down by a blow on the head, took him by the heels and dashed him against the ground, and then threw him to a considerable distance. Two men at work in an adjoining field, seeing the transaction, ran and took up the boy, who lived but a few moments. They then pursued the father who attempted to escape, and properly secured him.

MONDAY, 11,

Was executed at the new gallows, before the debtor's door in the Old-Bailey, William Higson, for the wilful murther of his son, Joseph Higson.

TUESDAY, 12.

The session ended at the Old-Bailey, when 22 convicts received judgement of death: 18 were ordered to be transported: 20 to be kept to hard labour in the house of correction: 15 to be whipped; and 14 discharged.

TUESDAY, 19.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer moved for leave to bring in a bill to amend and explain an act passed in the 24th year of the reign of his present Majesty, imposing a duty on printed and stained cottons, linens, &c. but to repeal so much thereof as related to plain cottons and fustians.

TUESDAY, 26,

John Thompson was executed before Newgate, pursuant to his sentence, for breaking into the house of Mrs. Wells, and attempting to murther her.

IRELAND.

Dublin, March 24.

THIS day his Grace the Lord Lieutenant went in state to the House of Peers, and gave the royal assent to the following bills:—Great duty bill; loan bill; for the advancement of trade; Post-Office bill; sugar bill; tobacco bill; hawker's and pedlar's bill; duty on licences; duty on carriages; corn bill; coffee bill; malt bill; qualification bill; Dublin entries for the Royal Exchange; 4000l. to the linen manufacture; 9000l. Protestant charter schools; 1000l. Dublin Society; 3000l. for building public offices; 5000l. Foundling hospitals; 5000l. for building churches; 1000l. Hibernian school; 8000l. to the house of industry; 1000l. Marine

Society; to take away the challenge to the array of pannels of jurors for want of a knight on trials, in which a peer or lord of parliament is party; to prevent dilapidations on church lands; Nenagh road bill.

When the Speaker of the House of Commons of Ireland presented the money bills for the royal assent, he addressed the Duke of Rutland in the following words:

“ *May it please your Grace;* ”

“ No system of government or of commerce can be secure or permanent which is not founded in justice; of this truth the history of every great empire affords sufficient proofs, none more than the British: but however evident in theory this truth may have been at all times to thinking men, it seems to have had little influence upon the councils of nations, till within these few years, when experience, dearly purchased, had removed those prejudices which misled their understandings, and opened their eyes to their own interest. From that period this kingdom has gradually raised her head and extended her views; her constitution has been restored, and her foreign commerce liberated from those chains which held it in bondage: but still the reformation was imperfect, one of the most important articles still remained unsettled—the commercial intercourse between Great-Britain and this kingdom. Your Grace has wisely recommended to the attention of parliament, an equitable adjustment of that communication for the mutual advantage of both kingdoms. The Commons entered upon that difficult business with alacrity, and prosecuted it with ardour; and there is reason to expect that their exertions will be crowned with success, through the wisdom of his Majesty's councils, and the liberal principles which have been adopted by the legislatures of both kingdoms. The great revolution which has taken place in America, and the consequent changes in the commercial policy of Europe, must give a new direction to commerce; the situation of this country, so favourable to navigation, affords reasonable hopes that a considerable portion of it may be diverted into this kingdom; but this advantage, and our late acquisitions, however valuable, will avail us little, if we do not exert our industry at home, and establish an opinion abroad, that our people are at peace among themselves, and obedient to the laws. This is the critical moment, if we neglect it, and do not seize the opportunity before the current of trade has got into a settled channel, we shall probably lament our conduct when it will be too late, and fall back into that languid, abject, and insignificant state, from which we vainly flatter ourselves we had escaped. If such shall be our misfortune, it cannot with justice be imputed to the neglect of the Commons; they have endeavoured with lenity, but firmness, to give vigour to the laws, to satisfy and calm the minds of the people, and to encourage them to industry. The happy effects of these measures are already visible, and I trust will soon rescue the reputation of the nation from those foul calumnies which have not only disgraced her character, but obstructed her improvement. Notwithstanding the variety and importance of these objects which have engaged

the attention of the Commons, they have not yet been unmindful of their duty to his Majesty or to the public in other respects; they have made ample provision for the exigencies of the state, for the honourable support of his Majesty's government, and for the maintenance of public credit; and though to put an end to the ruinous practice of running in debt, they have found themselves under a necessity of imposing additional taxes to the amount of about one hundred and forty thousand pounds a year, in order to raise the revenue to the level of the public expences, yet they trust they have done it in such a manner that the burthen will be little felt by the people; and they rely with confidence on your Grace's justice and affection for this kingdom, that you will prevent, to the utmost of your power, any deficiencies, by enjoining the strictest economy in every department of the state; and that your Grace will represent to his Majesty, in the most favourable light, the conduct of his faithful Commons, by whose command, and in whose name, I now present to your Grace, for the royal assent, the bills, &c."

Belfast, April 5. Captain Gillis, of the Three Brothers, belonging to Belfast, on his late voyage home from America, discovered an island, or large rock, in lat. 57. 25. off the Island of Torry, N. E. coast of Ireland, 65 leagues, which island or rock is not described in any of our charts. It seems to be of considerable dimensions, and at a distance wears a conical appearance. A range of sunken rocks branches to the eastward of the above island for three or four miles, which is highly dangerous for vessels to approach.

WEST-INDIES.

ADVICES have been received from the West-Indies, dated so late as the 11th of March, and bring an account that there will be crops of sugar more than sufficient to load all the ships in that trade, so that many of them have engaged to make a second trip this year.

So far our affairs in that quarter wear a favourable aspect. But what chiefly engages the attention of the planters, and may lead to a very disagreeable issue, is the dispute with the Spaniards, concerning the logwood cutters, in that part of South America known by the name of the Musquito Shore. The particulars of this business as mentioned in the Jamaica papers, are as follows:

Kingston, Jan. 27. The Mary, Capt. Bowen, arrived in the harbour of Kingston on Sunday from Black River on the Musquito shore, with intelligence that a sloop of war anchored on that coast from the Havannah, in December last, on board of which were three Spanish officers, charged with dispatches from the governor-general of Cuba, to Major Lowrey, commandant of the British post at Black River, which they delivered to him immediately after they landed. The tenor of these dispatches, it seems, was a peremptory requisition, to know if Major Lowrey had received any official instructions from the court of Great-Britain, or elsewhere, that authorised him to withdraw the troops and inhabitants from that country, and giving him to understand,

that if the territory should not be vacated by March next to the Spanish commander, he should be under the necessity of compelling them to retire by force of arms. To this message we understand Major Lowrey returned no answer, but after entertaining his visitors in the most hospitable manner, gave an acknowledgement that he had received the dispatches, and promised to send a flag of truce to the Havannah, with his final determination on the subject in a fortnight after. It was the prevailing opinion among the people at Black River, when the express came away, that the Spaniards are seriously disposed to carry their threats into execution, and that they are making considerable preparations, both at the Havannah, and in the neighbourhood of the English settlements on the main, expressly for that purpose.

Through the same channel we also learn, that 2000 Spaniards were stationed within six days march of the Musquito shore, and that in consequence thereof Major Lowrey was, with unremitting ardour, putting the place into the best posture of defence his small force would admit of; he had also convened the Indian chiefs together, who had promised him in the most solemn manner every assistance and support; so that it may be reasonably expected, with the force already there, joined to the assistance which may be sent from this island, that our countrymen will be sufficient to baffle all the efforts the Spaniards may make to dispossess them of that valuable country.

His Majesty's sloop Swan, and a transport with arms and ammunition, sailed on Monday from Port-Royal for the Musquito shore. Major M^r Murdo, of the third regiment, we understand, went passenger in the Swan, charged with dispatches for Major Lowrey.

Feb. 3. A gentleman of veracity just arrived express from the Musquito shore and the Bay of Honduras, brings the following alarming intelligence: that about the 16th of December last, a body of 500 Spaniards, well armed, took possession of the Island of Rattan, and drove a few English fishermen, who had established themselves there, from their habitations. The Spaniards are with great diligence now fortifying that island, which has an excellent harbour on the south side, from whence they mean to carry on their operations by sea against the Musquito shore. The same gentleman adds, that large bodies of regulars and militia are in motion at Porto-Bello, Carthagena, Guatimala, Yucatan, Tobasco, and New Orleans, avowedly for the purpose of exterminating the whole nation of Musquito Indians, and their allies the English, on that coast, should they afford them any succour or assistance. Don Mathias Galvez, Viceroy of Mexico, who is the planner of this pious expedition, has pledged himself to the court of Spain in the most solemn manner for its complete success, and has given the chief command to his son, Don Galvez, now governor of Cuba: the 20th of March next is fixed for the commencement of hostilities.

When the last advices came from the Musquito Shore, a Spanish frigate of 40 guns had arrived in the Gulf of Dulce, and was lying at anchor under Fort Omoa. Five hundred regular troops,

and 900 volunteers, a ragged banditti of Mulattoes, Mestees, and Negroes, had also reached Druillo, in the vicinity of the Bay of Honduras, which city is appointed as the general rendezvous of the force to be employed in this expedition.

The Spanish governors in all the provinces surrounding the Musquito Shore have published edicts, prohibiting all persons, living within their respective jurisdictions, from trading with the English, or selling them provisions, either at the Bay of Honduras, or the Shore, under the severest pains and penalties: in consequence of which every species of friendly intercourse is at an end between the two nations in that quarter.

On Saturday the 23d inst. some dispatches were received at the secretary of state's office from the Earl of Chesterfield at Madrid, which were of such import, that they were immediately forwarded to the King at Windsor. It seems the Spaniards have become accusers, insisting that by the accounts from Don Galvez, the governor, as well as from other authentick information, the English settlers have been the aggressors, encroaching upon the boundaries, and treating the Catholick King's subjects with violence, and his officers with disrespect.

B A S T - I N D I E S.

REPORTS have lately been circulated of the great and sudden prosperity of the Company's affairs. The public has been so often misled by pretended and contradictory accounts of their circumstances, that we shall not be hasty in copying any thing that may appear on a subject with regard to which men of character and abilities hold such different opinions. The following is the substance of the advices received from Bengal the beginning of this month:

The ship Bellona, Capt. Richardson, is gone on a voyage to Malacca and China, from whence she is to proceed to the south-west coast of America. She failed the 11th of May.

There has been a mutiny of the black cavalry in English pay at Arnee, on account of arrears; they have made their officers prisoners.

Six midshipmen who were taken by Monsieur Suffrein in the captured ships, and sent up to Tippoo, have renounced both their country and religion, and voluntarily turned Mahometans, and married Mahometan women.

On the 4th of June a Portuguese ship called the Priozo, laden with 600 pipes of Madeira, and a very rich cargo from Europe, was totally lost on the Gasper-Sand, at the entrance of the Ganges; the captain, two officers, and 40 men perished for want of assistance, which could not be had but from Calcutta: this is the second Portuguese ship that has been lost at the entrance of the river, within two months, both with cargoes of Madeira wine.

The Afia, now, from the eastward, but last from Melapatam, is lost at the entrance of Hoogley-River. All the crew but a few Lascars perished, who swam to Sauger-Island.

An American ship has been at the cape of Good Hope. Her further destination was not known.

The Dutch are now put in possession of their town and fort of Chinturah, but with several

restrictions which they were not under before the war.

The heat at Mesulapatam last summer was very uncommon and extraordinary, the thermometer was up at 109, and at Ellore rose to the astonishing height of 120 out of the sun.

Mr. Hastings was to embark for Europe the 15th of March 1785.

A M E R I C A.

THE decrease of population in America, since the commencement of last war, is now confirmed by Congress. Their first calculation was published in 1775, for levying a proportion of taxes in each state, and amounted to 3,137,809 souls. In January 1784, another computation was made, when the number of souls was found to be but 2,389,300, so that in nine years only the population of the United States was decreased 748,569 persons.

A difficulty has been started between our civil governors in America and the Congress, concerning the evacuation of Niagara, Detroit, and some other posts upon the Upper Lakes. Gen. Haldimand first refused to give them up, though they came within the American boundary line, and his conduct has, in that particular, been in some measure approved by ministers; so that the 29th and 31st regiments are ordered immediately to relieve the 8th regiment, now in possession of those forts.

The Spaniards and Portuguese are under great alarm for their possessions in South America. The Peruvians, Brasilians, and other natives pant for their emancipation more than ever. A few years will certainly produce great changes in the south, as it has lately done in the north.

According to letters from Charles-Town, South-Carolina, the governour and assembly of that province continue to transact all public business with little or no interference of Congress, and they were the most flourishing of all the United States. The foreign orders for Carolina rice were so great that they did not expect to be able to complete them this year, even though the crops should turn out very good. Vast quantities are in demand for the markets at Smyrna, Scanderoon, Constantinople, and Musilat. But the capture of three or four ships in the Mediterranean sea, by the Barbary pirates, had determined them to send no more vessels thither, but such as were fit for defence.

F O R E I G N A F F A I R S.

AS almost every mail from the continent brings a different account of the negociation between the Emperour and the Dutch, the issue appears to be still as uncertain as it was several months ago; and on so complicated a subject there is no end of speculation. The court of France seems to espouse the cause of the States more effectually than was at first expected. To the intrigues of this court the motions of the Turks on the Imperial frontiers are most probably owing.

A double marriage between the royal families of Spain and Portugal is at length concluded. This junction is for the purpose of preventing the extinction of the Braganza family, neither

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the Prince of Beira, nor Don Pedro Xavier having any issue by their aunts, to whom they are married.

Lisbon, March 26. The treaty for the marriage between the Infanta of Portugal and the Infant Don Gabriel of Spain is signed.

Madrid, March 29. On Easter Sunday the 27th inst. the Portuguese ambassadour at this court make his public entry into Madrid, and in a formal audience of the King of Spain, demanded the Infanta Donna Charlotta (eldest daughter of the Prince of Asturias) in marriage for the Infant Don Juan of Portugal. In the evening the contract was read and signed in the presence of the royal family, the grandees of Spain, and the great officers of state. After which the marriage ceremony was performed by the Patriarch of the Indies, his Catholic Majesty standing proxy for the Infant Don Juan.

This alliance will probably occasion a change in the politics of this kingdom with respect to Portugal. Our trade to that country has been for some time on the decline; and it is now in contemplation to negotiate certain articles of commerce between England and France, the chief of which will be to lower the duties on French wines and brandies, on condition that the French allow the importation of our woollen and steel wares.

The Spaniards are preparing for another expedition against Algiers, in which they will, doubtless, be assisted by many of the maritime powers of Europe. The miscarriage of the last attempt has raised the confidence of the Algérines to such a pitch of audacity that the navigation of the Mediterranean is no longer safe to the ships of any nation.

Advices have been lately received from the British consul at Leghorn, that they have refused to restore an English ship lately taken near Málaga, or to release any of her crew. The depredations of these barbarians are doubtless a great check on the trade of our enemies in time of war, but they are at best but dangerous and uncertain friends, unless when we have a sufficient force in their neighbourhood to keep them in awe.

Vienna, March 19. The new regulations of his Imperial Majesty, respecting the interiour government of the kingdom of Hungary, have been published in the Gazette of this city.

Instead of the fifty-six counties, into which that kingdom, and its dependent provinces, were hitherto divided. Ten circles are now formed, and committed to the charge of the following Hungarian gentlemen, with the titles of Counsellors and Royal Commissaries, viz.

Le Comte Giory,	Le Comte de Teleky,
Le Baron Mailath,	Le Baron Pronay,
Le Baron d'Urmény,	Le Baron Reva,
Le Comte Jancowitz,	Le Baron Szent Ivany,
Le Comte Szeaseny,	Le Baron Detzer.

The supreme courts retain their former titles, and the privileges which belong to their order, and a general diet of the nation, but their jurisdiction in their respective countries is entirely suppressed.

Petersburgh, Feb. 22. On the 6th of last month, the festival of the Benediction of the Waters, we had here an example of toleration

and brotherly love, which does honour to the age and reign under which it took place. The Empress's confessor, the Prelate Iwin Pamfilo, gave a grand dinner to the ecclesiastics of all the different religions existing at Petersburgh.— Among those invited were the Russian Archbiishop of Poloz, the Patriarch of Grusiana, several Russian archimandrites, a bishop, a prior, and several other Roman Catholic priests, six Lutheran preachers, and those of the English, French, Dutch, and German Protestant churches. Never, perhaps, was such a dinner of toleration given, especially at the house of the confessor of a sovereign potentate.

BIRTHS.

Versailles, Mar. 27. HER Most Christian Majesty was happily delivered of a prince, who has been named Duc de Normandy.—

London, April 9. Lady Margaret Beckford, a daughter.—10. Lady of Sir Pierce Nostyn, Bart. a son and heir.—12. Lady of Goverour Penn, a daughter.—20. Lady of Earl Percy, a son and daughter.

MARRIAGES.

March 23. THE Rev. John Shirley Fermor, M. A. and chaplain to Lord Amherit, to the Hon. Miss Catherine Burton, eldest daughter of Lord Conyngham.—*April 1.* The Rev. Henry William Majendie, Canon of Windsor, and chaplain in ordinary to his Majesty, to Miss Routledge.—12. The Rev. George William Auriol Drummond, son of the late Archbiishop of York, and nephew of the Earl of Kinnoul, to Miss Marshall, daughter of Samuel Marshall, Esq. of Berry-House, Hants.

DEATHS.

March 19. LADY Leyn, wife of Sir William Leyn.—At Scarborough, aged 100, Richard Spencer.—22. The Rev. Mr. Richard Chase, rector of St. John's Ilketshall, Suffolk, and of Ellingham, and Hempstead, with Levingham, in Norfolk.—24. At Bath, aged 43, Sir Patrick Houston, of Houston, Bart.—26. The Rev. Mr. Coles, rector of Bridgewater.—27. Mrs. Gambier, wife of James Gambier, Esq. vice-admiral of the blue.—31. Lady Moncrieffe, widow of Sir W. Moncrieffe, of Moncrieffe, Bart.—At Isleworth, aged 74, the Hon. Mary Fane, Countess de Salis, daughter of the first, and sister and coheiress of the late Lord Viscount Fane, and wife of Jerome Count de Salis, of the Holy Roman empire.—Lately, suddenly, at Hinderiapping, in Switzerland, Mr. Diderot, one of the greatest mathematicians of the age. His kinsman, the Sieur Diderot, who was librarian to the Empress of Russia, also died suddenly about a twelvemonth since.—The Rev. Mr. John Goddard, rector of Kympton and South Tidworth, in Hants.—*April 2.* At Oxford, of a violent fever, aged 45, John Parsons, M. D. of Christ-Church college, reader in anatomy, clinical professor, and the first physician in that university.—8. At Edinburgh, the Hon. Robert Bruce, of Kennet, one of the senators

nators of the College of Justice, and one of the Lords Commissioners of Justiciary.—11. At Brentwood, in Essex, the Countess of Aldborough, lady of the Earl of Aldborough, of the kingdom of Ireland. Her ladyship, being on her return to London from their seat in Suffolk, was suddenly seized with an apoplexy, at the Crown Inn at Brentwood, where they had slept the preceding night, and immediately expired.—14. William Whitehead, Esq. poet-laureat, register and secretary of the Knights Companions of the most honourable order of the Bath; author of the *Roman Father*, the *School for Lovers*, &c.—The Rev. John Copson, A. M. vicar of Kemble, and of St. Paul's, in Malmesbury, both in Wilts.—15. Sir John Dyke Ackland, Bart. He is succeeded in the title and part of the estate by his uncle, now Sir Thomas Dyke Ackland, Bart.—16. The Rev. George Anderson, brother to Sir Edmund Anderson, Bart. and rector of Epworth, Lincolnshire, and also rector of Lea, in the same county.—18. The Rev. Dr. Gresley, of the Four-Oakes, in Warwickshire, rector of Seal, in Leicestershire.—20. At Laleham, in Middlesex, Mrs. Penn, widow of the late Hon. Richard Penn, formerly proprietor and governour of Pennsylvania in North America.—Lately, at Cartmell, in Lancashire, aged 97, Mrs. Barrow. This lady, after being the mother of nine children, lived to see her twenty grand-children, twenty-one great grand-children, and three great great grand-children; a progeny of fifty-three!—The Rev. Francis Raynsford, rector of Bugbrooke, in the county of Northampton.—Capt. John Brett, senior captain of the royal navy. He was lieutenant to Lord Anson when he made his voyage round the globe.

CIVIL PROMOTIONS.

From the Gazette.

March **T**HE King has been pleased to appoint John Temple, Esq. to be his Majesty's Consul-general to the United States of America.—Mr. George Home, advocate, one of the ordinary clerks of Session to be clerk of the registers of tailzies and inventories of heirs, in Scotland, vice Mr. Archibald Campbell retired.—12. Hale Young Wortham, Esq. to be a groom of the privy-chamber in ordinary to his Majesty.—13. The Right Hon. Thomas Earl of Bective, Sir Skeffington Smyth, Bart. and David Latouche, Esq. sworn of his Majesty's most honourable privy council in the kingdom of Ireland.—**April** 16. Mr. William Caslon admitted into the place of letter-founder in ordinary to his Majesty.—The Earl of Leven to be his Majesty's high commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.—Captain Douglas, now Sir James Douglas, knighted.

From the other papers.

General Campbell, late Governor of Jamaica, to be Governor of the Presidency at Madras, vice Lord Macartney, who succeeds Mr. Hastings.—Lord Balcarres to be second in command in India to General Sloper.—Mr. William Bullock to be clerk of the peace for the county of Essex.—Dr. Wall elected clinical pro-

fessor in the university of Oxford, vice Dr. Parsons, deceased.

ECCLESIASTICAL PREFERMENTS.

PRESENTATIONS.

THE Rev. Thomas Sisson, of Reigate, to the vicarage of Ifield, in Sussex.—The Rev. William Benson, A. B. of Queen's college, Oxford, to the vicarage of Ashby-Legers, in the county of Northampton.—The Rev. Morgan Graves, M. A. to the rectory of Hinderclay, to hold with the rectory of Redgrove.—The Rev. John Brice, of Porlock, B. A. to the rectory of Greinton, also licensed to the donative of Cattcott, both in Somersetshire.—The Rev. Thomas Pickard, of York, to the vicarage of Ferry-Fryston, in the West-Riding.—The Rev. James Baden Carpenter, chaplain to the Earl of Cork and Orrery, to the rectory of Elsted, in Sussex.—The Rev. Mr. Thompson, senior fellow of St. John's college, to the rectory of Staplehurst, in Kent.—The Rev. Mr. Shackleford to the vicarage of St. Sepulchre's, on Snow-hill.—Mr. Lawson, M. A. and fellow of Trinity college, Cambridge, elected head-master of the Free-Grammar-school, at Wolverhampton, in Staffordshire.—Mr. Syndal, M. A. of University-college, Oxford, second master.—The Rev. Richard Hele, B. D. fellow of Trinity college, to the rectory of Farnham, in Essex.—Rev. Mr. Grose chosen lecturer of the parish of St. Olave's, Southwark.

DISPENSATIONS.

The Rev. Malachy Hitchins, M. A. to hold the vicarage of Gwineer, together with the vicarage of St. Hilary, both in Cornwall.—The Rev. Harry Farr Yearman, B. D. late fellow of Balliol college, Oxford, to hold the rectory of Kilve, alias Culve, with Strinxten annexed, together with the vicarage of East-Brent, in Somersetshire.—The Rev. Thomas Willis, clerk, M. A. rector of Upp Clatford, in the county of Southampton, and diocese of Winchester, to hold the rectory of Illsfield, alias Illesfield, alias Illisfield, in the same county and diocese.—The Rev. Thomas Scott, clerk, LL. B. vicar of Lenham, in the county of Kent, and diocese of Canterbury, to hold the rectory of Denton, in the same county and diocese.

BANKRUPTS.

Jan. **C**HRISTOPHER LAMB, of Old 25. Wall, in Irthington, in Cumberland, dealer.—Saunders Aaron, of Bevis Marks, St. Mary Axe, London, tobacconist.—Thomas Rowntree, of Essex-street, in the Strand, money-scrivener.—John Mandeville, of Ivecill, in Heskett in the Forest, in Cumberland, merchant (partner with John Sutton, of Alexandria, in North-America, merchant, carrying on trade in the names, style, and firm of Sutton, Mandeville, and company).—29. John Tweddle, of Yarm, in Yorkshire, grocer.—Thomas Ewbank, of Bedale, in Yorkshire, merchant.—John Jones, late of Liverpool, chemist and druggist.—Thomas Dennis, late of West Ham, in Essex, coal and timber-merchant.—John Cleaver and Charles Cleaver, of West-Cowes, in the Isle of Wight,

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Wight, copartners and shipbuilders.—Johnson West, of Market-Place, within the liberty of Westminster, cooper.—David Scott, late of Antigua, in the West-Indies, but now of Charing-Cross, Middlesex, merchant.—William Little-fear, of Green-street, Leicester-fields, silversmith.—Fairfax Bedlington, of Paradise-street, Rotherhithe, mariner.—Thomas Knott, of King-street, Covent-Garden, haberdasher.—
Feb. 1. Joshua James, of Bristol, distiller.—Peter Kennion, of Liverpool, cooper.—George Swann, of Sheffield, in Yorkshire, butcher.—Simon Solomon, of Little Bell-Alley, London, artificial flower-maker and ribbon-painter.—Robert Heard, late of Bideford, in Devonshire, and now of Thames-street, London, mariner.—George Stupart, of St. Botolph, Aldgate, mariner.—Robert Bew, of High-Holbourn, St. Giles's in the Fields, cornchandler.—Joseph Prior, late of Cheapside, London, haberdasher.—Lazarus Barnett, formerly of Crosby-square, Bithopsgate-street, London, late of Philadelphia, in North-America, but now of Somerset-street, Whitechapel, merchant.—
5. Samuel Kimberley, late of Tipton-Green, in Staffordshire, but now a prisoner in the gaol of Stafford, sailor.—John Aaron Pedro, of St. Thomas the Apostle, in Devonshire, innholder.—John Johnson, of Lombard-street, London, merchant and insurer.—Richard West, of Newgate-street, London, wine and brandy merchant.—George Gun Munro, of Princes-street, London, insurance-broker.—Andrew Poupard, formerly of Queen-street, Tower-hill, pawnbroker, but late of Ware, in Herts, slopseller.—Henry Als and John Als, of Gracechurch-street, London, linendrapers and partners.—Robert Edmeades, of Fish-street-hill, London, feedsmen.—John Tackle, of Aldermanbury, London, innholder and stablekeeper.—
8. Jonathan Newton, of Ashborne, in Derbyshire, shopkeeper.—Robert Kennett, of New-Bond-street, St. George, Hanover-square, upholsterer.—Henry Houghton, formerly of Fleet-street, London, and late of Peckham-Rye-Common, in Surrey, dealer.—
12. William Ashton, of Liverpool, ale-brewer (surviving partner of Thomas Holland, late of Liverpool, ale-brewer, deceased).—George Donadieu, of Charles-street, St. Anne, Soho, perfumer.—Walter Taylor, of Lower East-Smithfield, St. Botolph, Aldgate, sailmaker.—
15. Edward Whiteside, late of Lancaster, merchant and cornfactor.—Humphrey Sydenham, of Witney, in Oxfordshire, draper.—Alexander Forbes, of Wood-street, London, innkeeper.—Thomas Whitehead, of Clerkenwell-Close, St. James, Clerkenwell, tailor.—John Morley, of Trowbridge, in Wilts, draper and salesman.—Samuel Came, late of Charles-town, South-Carolina, but now of Danbury, in Essex, merchant.—
19. Samuel Sealy, of Yeovil, in Somersetshire, glove-manufacturer.—John Baptist Thevenot, Elisabeth Thornton, and John Louis L'Evesque, of Albemarle-street, Piccadilly, milliners and copartners.—Nicholas Ridgeway, of Stoke-Newington, Middlesex, stock-broker.—John Hardcastle, of Derby, grocer and flax-dresser.—William Spaldin, late of Liverpool, silversmith.—Henry Ladd, of Dover, in Kent, shipbuilder.—Joseph Vernon, of Pop-

ham-lane, in North-Waltham, in Hants, innholder.—Thomas Watson, of Bedford-street, St. Paul, Covent-Garden, hofier.—William Payne, of Walton, in Essex, mealman.—
22. John Vindin, of Newton St. Loe, in Somersetshire, mealman and cornfactor.—Robert Rowley, late of Hallow, in Worcestershire, hop-merchant.—Benjamin Passon, of Debenham, in Suffolk, shopkeeper.—George Daniel, late of Killgerran, otherwise Kilgarren, in Pembrokeshire, ironmaster.—William Blew, late of Bromyard, in Herefordshire, butcher.—
26. Thomas Carter, late of Grove-street, Hackney, in Middlesex, brandy-merchant.—Charles Woodhead, of Stockwell, in Surrey, dyer.—Richard Jolleff, now or late of Bristol, butcher.—Thomas Wigan the younger, of Bristol, banker, goldsmith, and silversmith.—William Taylor, of Southampton, shopkeeper.—John Pinfent, of Plymouth, soapboiler.—Joseph Owen, of Lindev, in Huddersfield, in Yorkshire, merchant.—John Failey, of Walthamstow, in Essex, merchant.—
March 1. Robert Arnold, now or late of Bristol, innholder.—Richard Tyler, of Little Bartholomew-Close, London, carpenter and joiner.—Benjamin Prince, late of Leeds, in Yorkshire, wine-merchant.—William Fisher, of Bath Easton, in Somersetshire, carrier.—Joseph Graham, now or late of Lancaster, broker and grocer.—
5. Thomas Natterell, of Holbourn, in the parish of St. Andrew, Holbourn, money-scrivener.—John Lee, late of Fleet-street, but now of Bread-street, London, haberdasher.—
8. James Hopwood, late of Market-Weighton, in Yorkshire, and now a prisoner in the castle of York, dealer.—John Haslehurst, of Macclesfield, in Cheshire, innholder.—John Hall and William Green, of Southwark, cheesemongers and copartners.—Henry Nethercoate, of East-Greenwich, in Kent, maltster.—Samuel Harrington, of Turnmill-street, Clerkenwell, pawnbroker.—John Lonsdale, of Sunderland near the Sea, in the county of Durham, mercer and draper.—
12. John Perrey, of Deptford, in Kent, soapmaker.—Roger Baron, now or late of Cabbin-End, within Oswaldtwistle, in Lancashire, cotton-manufacturer.—Richard Bower and George Langton, both of Liverpool, grocers and copartners.—William Roads, of St. Mary Magdalene, Bermondsey, Surrey, cooper.—Robert Patrick, of Whitechapel, bellfounder.—William Fols, of Kingston-upon-Hull, hatter.—William Stidolph, of Chafford-Mill, in Penshurst, in Kent, paper-maker.—William Agate, late of Rudwich, in Sussex, shopkeeper.—John Poidivine, now or late of South-Moulton-street, St. George, Hanover-square, milliner.—
15. Richard Watkinson, late of Liverpool, linendraper and shopkeeper.—George Heslop, the younger, of Dalton, in Yorkshire, merchant.—John Dawson, of York, linen-draper.—Miles Scales, of Lambrigg, in Kirkby Kendal, in Westmorland, dealer.—James Peppercorne, of West-Ham, Essex, factor.—
19. Robert Jollins, of Norwich, timber-merchant and carpenter.—Thomas Brown, of Hoxton, in Middlesex, broker.—
22. William Paytoe Cowles, of Kinton, in Herefordshire, dealer.—Peter Beeckman, of Bristol, lemon and orange-merchant.

PRICES of STOCKS, &c. in APRIL, 1785.

Compiled by C. DOMVILLE, Stock-Broker, No. 95, Cornhill.

Bank Stock.	3 per C. reduced	3 per C. consols.	4 per C. consols.	5 per C. consols.	India Stock	Short Ann.	India Bonds	S. Stock Ann.	Old Ann. Shut	New Ann.	Navy Bills.	Exch. Bills.	Wind Deal	Weath. London Fair
Days 28. Holiday														
29														
30														
31														
1														
2														
3 Sunday														
4	115													
5	1151													
6	1152													
7	116													
8														
9 Sunday														
10														
11														
12														
13														
14														
15	116													
16														
17 Sunday														
18	1161													
19	1162													
20	1132 e.d.													
21	114													
22	1154													
23 Sunday														
24 Holiday														
25														
26														

N. B. In the 3 per Cent Consols. the highest and lowest Price of each Day is given; in the other Stocks the highest Price only.